



NOW A  
HIT  
ANIME  
SERIES!

Dance in the  
**Vampire Bund**

NOZOMU TAMAKI

VOLUME 8

*Tamaki Nozomu Presents Dance In The Vampire Bund 8*

# DANCE IN THE VAMPIRE BUND

## 8

NOZOMU TAMAKI

この身を助けませとは  
われ祈らず  
彼岸に渡る力欲し  
わが荷を 軽くする  
慰めあらずとも  
かくて荷い堪わむ  
幸はふ日には うなだれて  
君がみ面を見ばや  
辛き夜には 世を挙げて  
欺くもよし  
君をゆめ 疑ふまじ

*I don't beg you how to ease the pain  
I want tough to go the opponents.  
Even if there is no comfort lighten my sin,  
I dare to endure and shoulder it.  
On a happy day I see your face hanging my head.  
On painful night I tell a lie all over the world.  
Still in love with you.*

*Rabindranath Tagore, Gitanjali*

## Dance In The Vampire Bund 8

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*I don't beg you how to ease the pain  
I want tough to go the opponent.  
Even if there is no comfort lighten my sin. I  
dare to endure and shoulder it. On a  
happy day I see your face hanging my  
head. On painful night I tell a lie all  
over the world. Still in love with you.*  
I don't beg you how to ease  
the pain I want tough to go  
the opponent. Even if there is  
no comfort lighten my sin, I  
dare to endure and shoulder  
it. On a happy day I see your  
face hanging my head. On  
painful night I tell a lie all  
over the world. Still in love  
with you.

*I don't beg you how to ease  
the pain I want tough to go  
the opponent. Even if there is  
no comfort lighten my sin, I  
dare to endure and shoulder  
it. On a happy day I see your  
face hanging my head. On  
painful night I tell a lie all  
over the world. Still in love  
with you.*

*I don't beg you how to  
ease the pain I want  
tough to go the  
opponent. Even if  
there is no comfort  
lighten my sin, I dare  
to endure and  
shoulder it. On a  
happy day I see your  
face hanging my head.  
On painful night I tell  
a lie all over the world.  
Still in love with you.*

*I don't beg you how to ease the pain  
I want tough to go the  
opponent. Even if there is no  
comfort lighten my sin, I dare to  
endure and shoulder it. On a happy  
day I see your face hanging my  
head. On painful night I tell a lie  
all over the world. Still in love  
with you.*

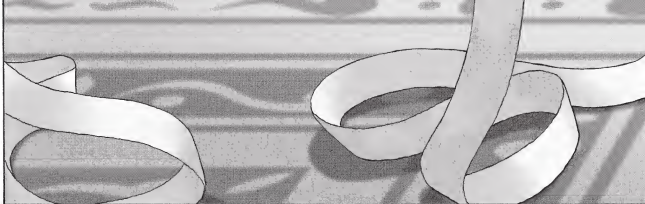
*I don't beg you how to ease the pain  
I want tough to go the opponent.  
Even if there is no comfort lighten my  
sin, I dare to endure and shoulder it.  
On a happy day I see your face  
hanging my head. On painful night  
I tell a lie all over the world. Still  
in love with you.*

*I don't beg you how to ease the pain  
I want tough to go the opponent.  
Even if there is no comfort lighten  
my sin, I dare to endure and  
shoulder it. On a happy day I see  
your face hanging my head. On*

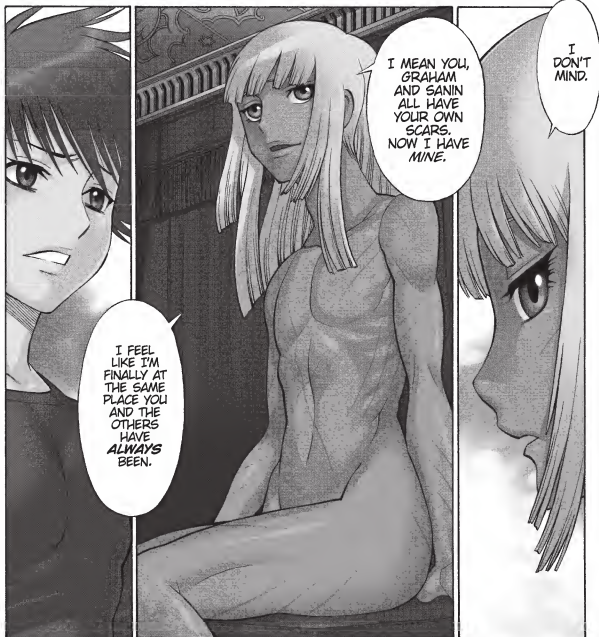
**Chapter 44: Visitors**

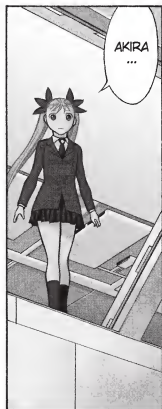


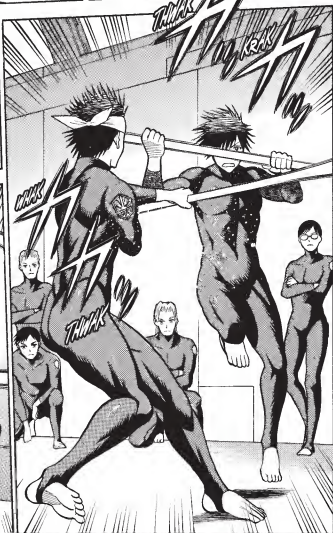




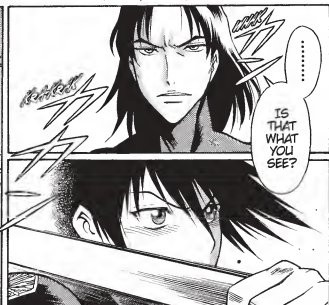
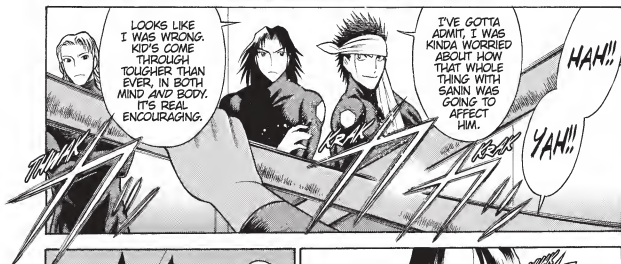
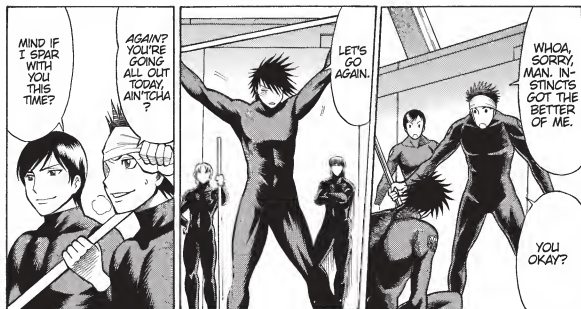
DAMN...  
YOU'VE  
GOT A  
TON OF  
SCARS.

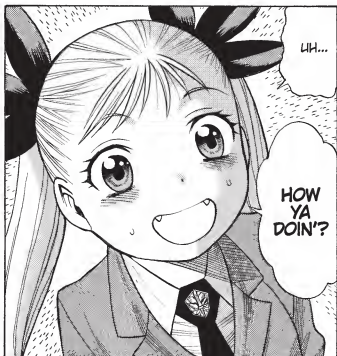
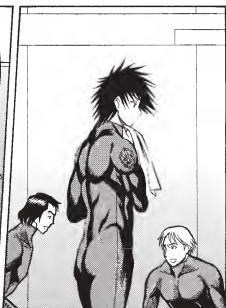
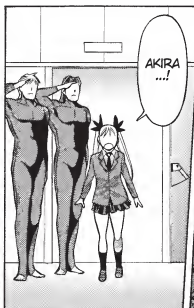


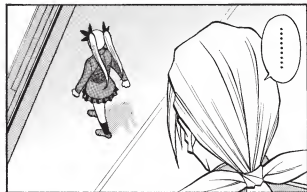


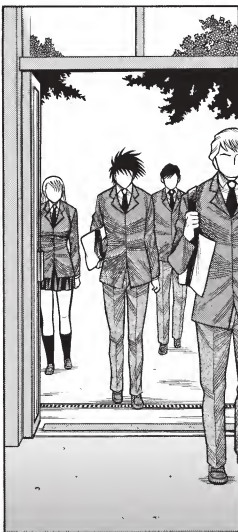
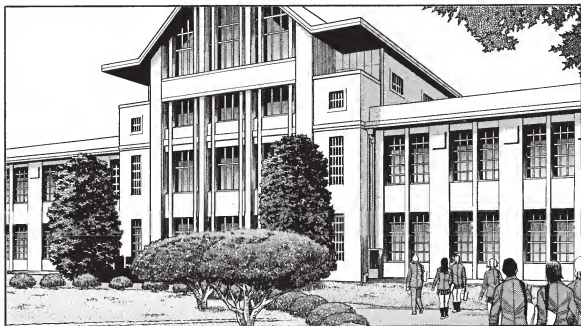




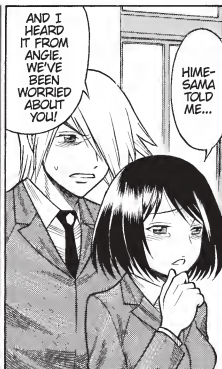


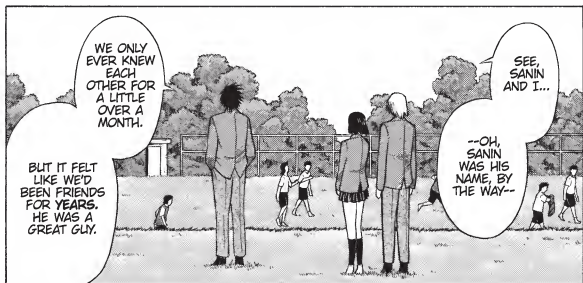












WE ONLY  
EVER KNEW  
EACH  
OTHER FOR  
A LITTLE  
OVER A  
MONTH.

BUT IT FELT  
LIKE WE'D  
BEEN FRIENDS  
FOR YEARS.  
HE WAS A  
GREAT GUY.

SEE,  
SANIN  
AND I...

--OH,  
SANIN  
WAS HIS  
NAME, BY  
THE WAY--



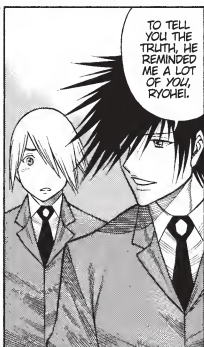
YOU WERE  
THAT  
CLOSE TO  
THE GUY,  
AND YOU  
HAD TO...?

OH  
GOD...

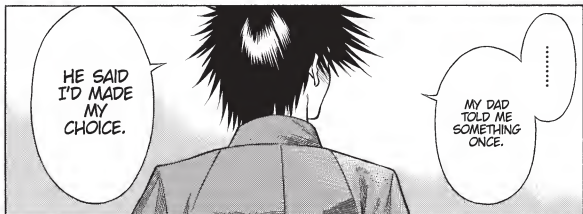


SOMEBODY  
ORDERED  
YOU TO  
DO IT TO  
PROTECT  
THE  
PRINCESS,  
RIGHT?!

IT WAS  
ORDERS,  
RIGHT?



TO TELL  
YOU THE  
TRUTH, HE  
REMINDED  
ME A LOT  
OF YOU,  
RYOHEI.



HE SAID  
I'D MADE  
MY  
CHOICE.

.....  
MY DAD  
TOLD ME  
SOMETHING  
ONCE.



AKIRA-  
KUN...

I THINK I  
UNDERSTAND  
NOW WHAT  
HE MEANT.



TIME IS  
A RIVER  
THAT NEVER  
FLOWS  
BACKWARDS.

NO MATTER  
WHAT IS  
WAITING  
FOR YOU  
WHEN YOU  
REACH YOUR  
DESTINATION.

ONCE YOU  
JUMP IN,  
THERE'S  
NOTHING  
FOR YOU TO  
DO BUT TO  
LET IT TAKE  
YOU WHERE  
IT WILLS...



TO WALK IT,  
SOMEBODY'S  
GOING TO HAVE  
TO GET HURT.  
SOMEBODY'S  
GOING TO HAVE  
TO BLEED.  
THAT'S HER  
FATE...

HIME-SAN  
MUST TAKE  
A PATH  
THAT ISN'T  
PRETTY  
OR NICE.



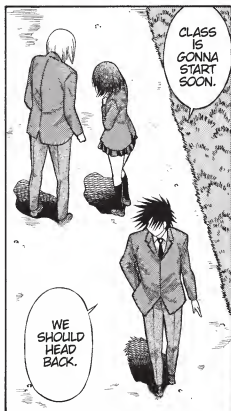
SO I'D  
RATHER  
THAT  
"SOMEBODY"  
BE ME.



IT'S  
THE  
LEAST  
I CAN  
DO FOR  
HER.



ME,  
INSTEAD  
OF  
ANYONE  
ELSE.

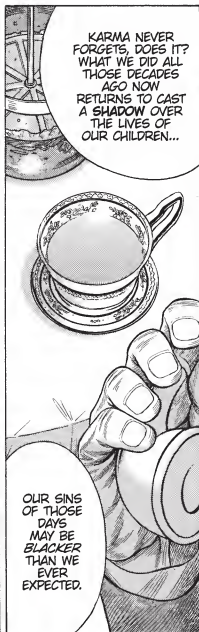






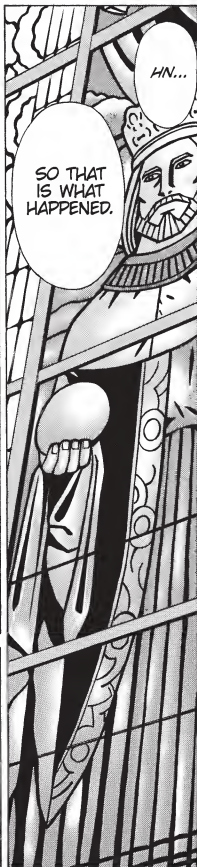
YOUR GRACE, THE  
ACTIONS TAKEN  
WERE NECESSARY  
AND UNAVOIDABLE  
STEPS IN THE  
RESTORATION OF  
THE TEPE'S FAMILY  
TO GLORY. OUR  
CAUSE WAS JUST  
AND NOBLE.

AND  
OVERLY  
FORCEFUL,  
SOWING THE SEEDS  
OF  
REBELLION  
IN MANY.



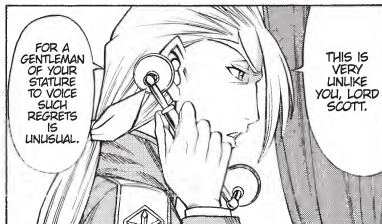
KARMA NEVER  
FORGETS, DOES IT?  
WHAT WE DID ALL  
THOSE DECADES  
AGO NOW  
RETURNS TO CAST  
A SHADOW OVER  
THE LIVES OF  
OUR CHILDREN...

OUR SINS  
OF THOSE  
DAYS  
MAY BE  
BLACKER  
THAN WE  
EVER  
EXPECTED.



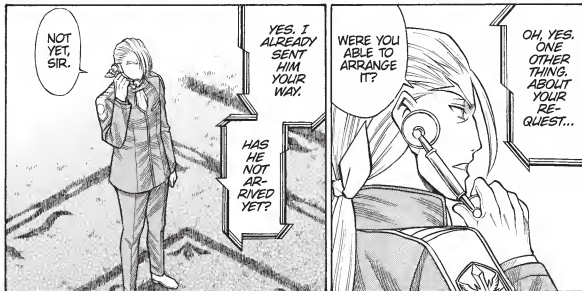
HN...

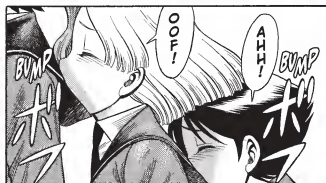
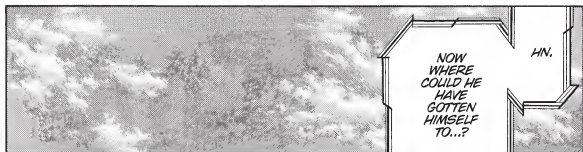
SO THAT  
IS WHAT  
HAPPENED.

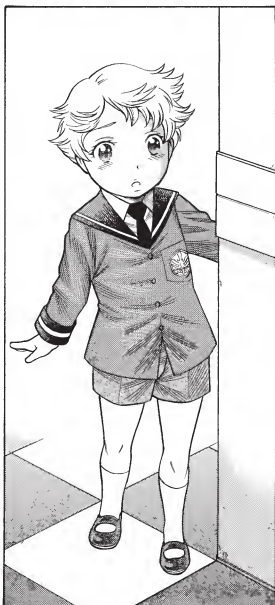
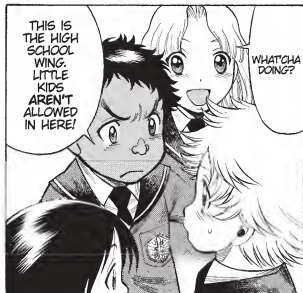


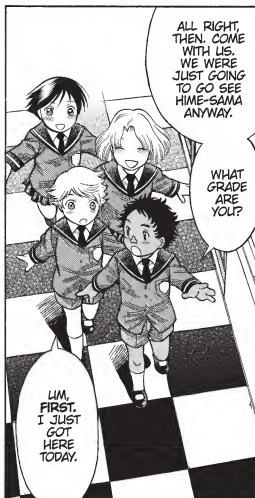
FOR A  
GENTLEMAN  
OF YOUR  
STATURE  
TO VOICE  
SUCH  
REGRETS  
IS  
UNUSUAL.

THIS IS  
VERY  
UNLIKE  
YOU, LORD  
SCOTT.

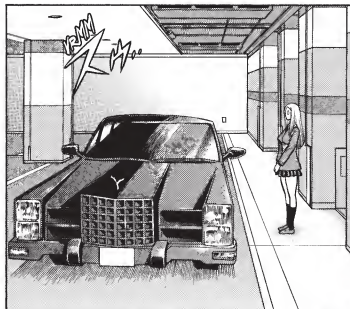






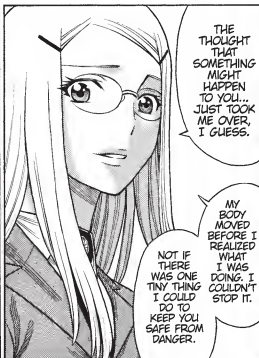








NANAMI...



THE  
THOUGHT  
THAT  
SOMETHING  
MIGHT  
HAPPEN  
TO YOU...  
JUST TOOK  
ME OVER,  
I GUESS.

MY  
BODY  
MOVED  
BEFORE I  
REALIZED  
WHAT  
I WAS  
DOING. I  
COULDN'T  
STOP IT.

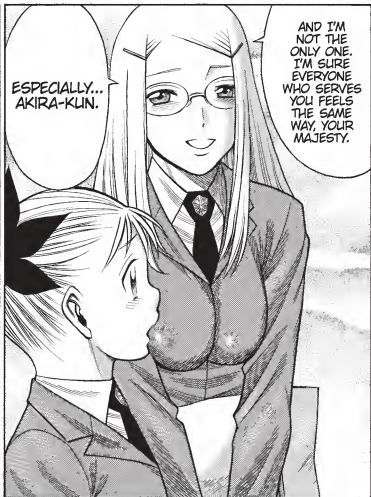
NOT IF  
THERE  
WAS ONE  
TINY THING  
I COULD  
DO TO  
KEEP YOU  
SAFE FROM  
DANGER.



TRYING  
TO HANDLE  
THAT  
INVADER  
ALL BY  
YOURSELF  
WAS  
RECKLESS!  
I WAS  
WORRIED.

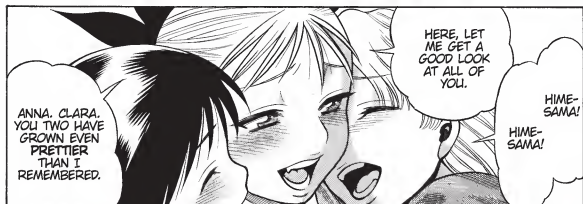


WELL,  
YOU  
CERTAINLY  
KNOW  
HOW TO  
MAKE ME  
BLUSH.

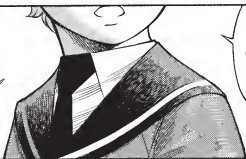


ESPECIALLY...  
AKIRA-KUN.

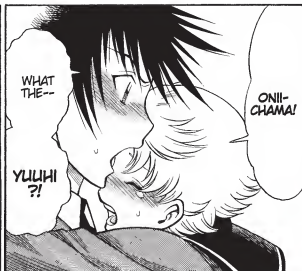
AND I'M  
NOT THE  
ONLY ONE.  
I'M SURE  
EVERYONE  
WHO SERVES  
YOU FEELS  
THE SAME  
WAY, YOUR  
MAJESTY.













NOW WE  
CAN SEE  
EACH  
OTHER  
WHENEVER  
WE  
WANT!

HE SAID  
I COULD  
START  
GOING TO  
THIS  
SCHOOL!



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
UP TO  
THIS  
TIME...?

DAMMIT,  
DAD.

SAME DAY,  
EAST CHINA  
SEA.

THERE,  
THAT'S  
THE  
BOAT.

THIS WAY,  
COUNCILOR!!

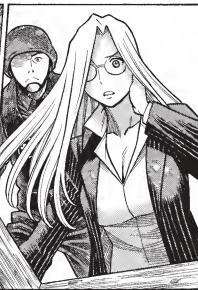
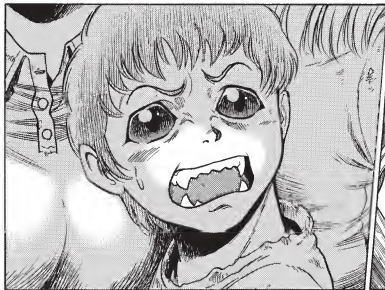
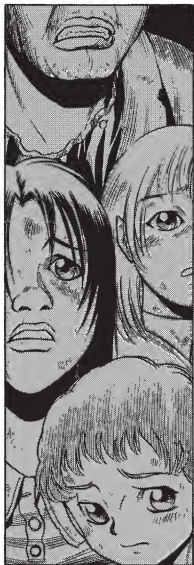
IT SEEMS  
THEY RAN  
AFOUL OF  
A STORM  
AND HAVE  
BEEN  
DRIFTING  
SINCE  
THEN.

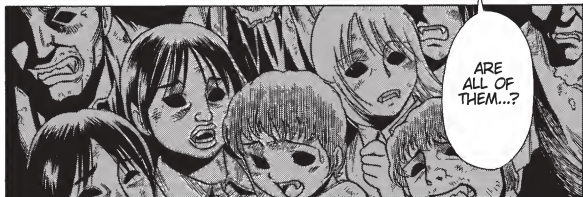
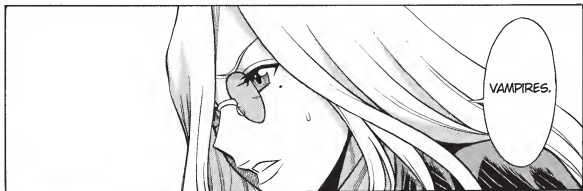
A SITUATION  
LIKE THIS  
ISN'T  
SOMETHING  
WE HAVE THE  
PROTOCOL  
TO DEAL WITH.  
NOT YET,  
ANYWAY.

THANKS  
FOR  
COMING  
OUT HERE  
ON SUCH  
SHORT  
NOTICE,  
MA'AM.

ONCE THE  
PATROL  
CREW HAS  
FINISHED  
THEIR  
INSPECTION,  
WE'LL  
MOVE THEM  
ONTO A  
PROPER  
VESSEL.











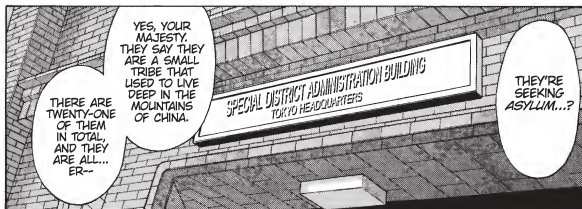
WE HAVE  
COME TO THE  
VAMPIRE BLIND  
SEEKING  
POLITICAL  
ASYLUM!

MY  
NAME IS  
TATIANNA  
HUMOR-  
ESQUE.



## ***Chapter 45: Nothing Hurts***





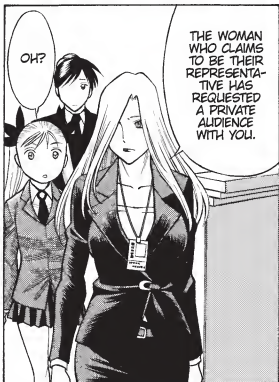
THERE ARE TWENTY-ONE OF THEM IN TOTAL, AND THEY ARE ALL... ER--

YES, YOUR MAJESTY. THEY SAY THEY ARE A SMALL TRIBE THAT USED TO LIVE DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS OF CHINA.

THEY'RE SEEKING ASYLUM...?

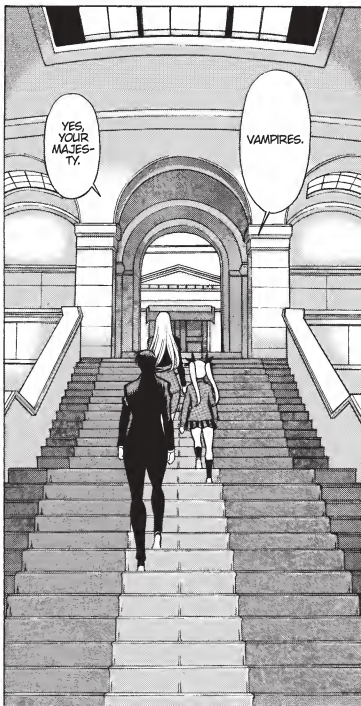


INTERESTING. THOUGH GIVEN CURRENT EVENTS, A PLEA FOR ASYLUM CONCERNS ME.



OH?

THE WOMAN WHO CLAIMS TO BE THEIR REPRESENTATIVE HAS REQUESTED A PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH YOU.

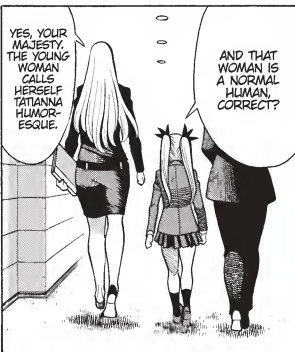


YES, YOUR MAJESTY.

VAMPIRES.



HUMOR-  
ESQUE?



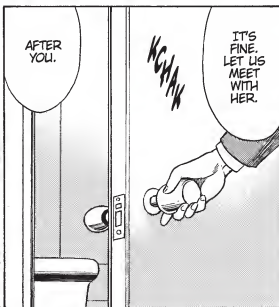
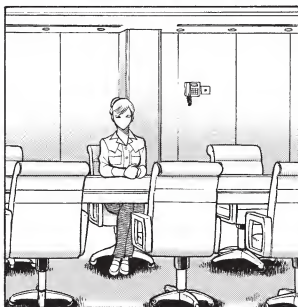
YES, YOUR  
MAJESTY.  
THE YOUNG  
WOMAN  
CALLS  
HERSELF  
TATIANNA  
HUMOR-  
ESQUE.

AND THAT  
WOMAN IS  
A NORMAL  
HUMAN,  
CORRECT?



NO.

IS THERE  
A  
PROBLEM  
WITH THAT,  
YOUR  
MAJESTY?



AFTER  
YOU.

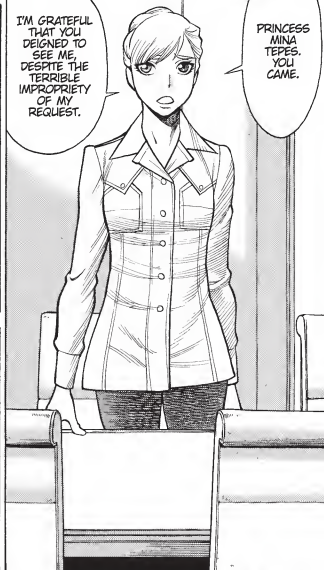
KCHAK

IT'S  
FINE.  
LET US  
MEET  
WITH  
HER.



IT'S THE LEAST I COULD DO, GIVEN WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH JUST TO REACH OUR SHORES.

THE DIFFICULTIES YOU FACED MUST HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLE.



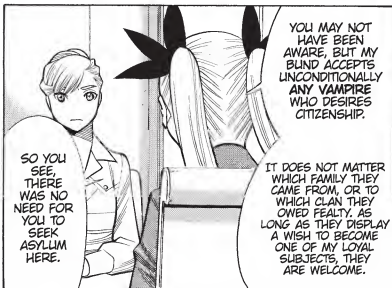
I'M GRATEFUL THAT YOU DEIGNED TO SEE ME, DESPITE THE TERRIBLE IMPROPRIETY OF MY REQUEST.

PRINCESS MINA TEPEPES. YOU CAME.



YES ...

THEY WERE.



SO YOU SEE, THERE WAS NO NEED FOR YOU TO SEEK ASYLUM HERE.

YOU MAY NOT HAVE BEEN AWARE, BUT MY BUND ACCEPTS UNCONDITIONALLY ANY VAMPIRE WHO DESIRES CITIZENSHIP.

IT DOES NOT MATTER WHICH FAMILY THEY CAME FROM, OR TO WHICH CLAN THEY OWED FEALTY. AS LONG AS THEY DISPLAY A WISH TO BECOME ONE OF MY LOYAL SUBJECTS, THEY ARE WELCOME.



WHY THE REQUEST FOR ASYLUM?

I AM VERY CURIOUS ABOUT YOUR REASONS.





THERE IS  
A STRONG  
REASON.

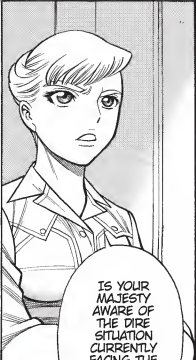
FOR  
LIS...  
NO, FOR  
THEM...



WHAT  
KIND OF  
DISEASE?  
WHAT ARE  
ITS SYM-  
PTOMS?



AN  
EPI-  
DEMIC.



IS YOUR  
MAJESTY  
AWARE OF  
THE DIRE  
SITUATION  
CURRENTLY  
FACING THE  
LI CLAN?

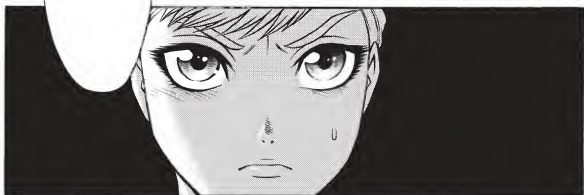
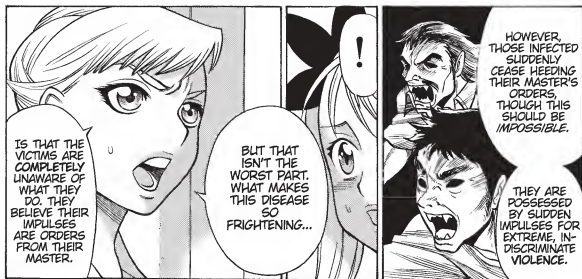


WHILE IT HAS  
BEEN LABELED  
A "DISEASE," IT  
DOES NOTHING  
TO HARM  
THE VICTIM'S  
PHYSICAL  
HEALTH OR  
WELL-BEING.

THE DISEASE  
STRUCK WITHOUT  
WARNING AND  
IS SPREADING  
THROUGH THE  
VAMPIRE POPULATION  
LIKE WILDFIRE.  
AS OF YET, NO WAY  
OF STOPPING--OR  
EVEN STEMMING--  
ITS ADVANCE  
HAS BEEN  
DISCOVERED.



WHAT  
SITUA-  
TION?





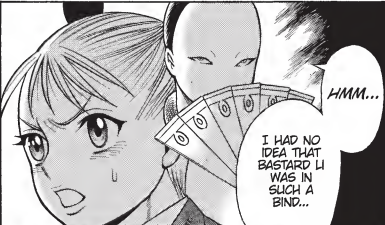
IT'S SAFE  
TO SAY THAT,  
THANKS TO  
THIS EPIDEMIC,  
THE ENTIRE  
CLAN HAS BEEN  
PLUNGED INTO  
CHAOS.

AND  
VICTIMS  
ARE  
APPEARING  
EVEN DEEP  
WITHIN THE  
PALACE.

THE  
DISEASE  
HAS  
ALREADY  
BURNED  
THROUGH  
THE  
TERRITORIES  
CONTROLLED  
BY THE  
LI CLAN.



BUT WHAT  
CONNECTION  
DOES THAT  
HAVE TO  
YOUR  
REQUEST  
FOR  
ASYLUM?



HMM...

I HAD NO  
IDEA THAT  
BASTARD LI  
WAS IN  
SUCH A  
BIND...



SO I  
GATHERED  
UP  
EVERYONE  
I COULD,  
AND SET  
OUT FOR  
YOUR  
BLIND.

WE GOT  
WORD THAT  
THESE  
MURDERERS  
WERE ON  
THEIR WAY  
TO OUR  
VILLAGE  
NEXT.



WHAT  
...?!



LORD LI WAS  
DESPERATE  
TO GAIN  
SOME KIND  
OF CONTROL  
OVER THE  
SITUATION.

ACCORDINGLY,  
HE INSTITUTED A  
TERRIBLY CRUEL  
METHOD OF DEALING  
WITH VICTIMS. ONCE  
WORD GETS OUT  
THAT THE SYMPTOMS  
HAVE APPEARED IN A  
VAMPIRE, SOLDIERS  
COME TO KILL HIM.  
THEN THEY  
MASSACRE HIS  
FAMILY AND THE  
REST OF HIS  
ENTIRE VILLAGE.



YES, SOME  
OF THEM ARE  
INFECTED!  
BUT THEY  
AREN'T  
SHOWING ANY  
SYMPTOMS!!

STUNK!!!  
PLEASE,  
HEAR  
ME  
OUT!



WITH  
VAMPIRES  
YOU KNEW  
FULL WELL  
WERE  
INFECTED  
BY THE  
PIED  
PIPER?!



WHAT?



SO YOU'RE  
SAYING  
THAT THESE  
VAMPIRES  
HAVE SOME  
FORM OF  
RESISTANCE  
TO IT?



YOUR  
MAJESTY,  
THE DISEASE  
FAILED TO  
DRIVE THEM  
INSANE.



SOME OF  
THEM DID  
START  
FEELING  
THE  
URGES  
TOWARDS  
VIOLENCE.

BUT ALL  
OF THEM  
WERE ABLE  
TO  
SUPPRESS  
THOSE  
URGES AND  
RETAIN THEIR  
SANITY.



YOU  
WANT  
ME TO  
PRO-  
TECT  
THEM.



YES.  
IF LORD LI  
WERE EVER  
TO DISCOVER  
THAT FACT,  
IT'S CERTAIN  
THAT HE  
WOULD USE  
WHATEVER  
MEANS  
NECESSARY  
TO CAPTURE  
THEM.

I...DON'T  
WANT TO  
THINK ABOUT  
WHAT MAY  
HAPPEN TO  
THEM AFTER  
HE GETS HIS  
HANDS ON  
THEM.



THE AID  
OF THESE  
INDIVIDUALS  
WILL BE  
INDISPENS-  
ABLE!

I BELIEVE  
THAT IF  
YOUR  
MAJESTY  
IS TO  
COMBAT  
THIS DIS-  
EASE...



WE SHALL  
PROTECT  
YOU  
TO THE  
FULLEST  
OF OUR  
ABILITY.

ALL RIGHT.  
I AGREE  
TO ACCEPT  
YOUR PLEA  
FOR  
ASYLUM.



HIN.  
IF THERE IS  
A WAY TO  
SUCCESS-  
FULLY  
OVERCOME  
THE PIED  
PIPER...

I  
DEFINITELY  
WANT THE  
MEANS  
TO IT  
SOMEWHERE  
WITHIN  
REACH.





I KNOW  
WELL THE  
PAIN OF  
LOSING MY  
HOMELAND.



WE  
ARE  
NOT SO  
DIFFER-  
ENT,  
YOU  
AND I.



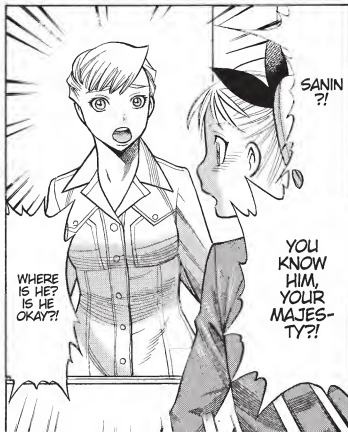
IT'S MORE  
THAN I  
COULD'VE  
HOPED.  
I HAVE NO  
WORDS  
FOR MY  
GRATITUDE,  
YOUR MAJ-  
ESTY.



HOWEVER,  
I CANNOT  
ALLOW THEM  
INTO THE  
BLIND  
PROPER.  
THE RISK OF  
CONTAGION IS  
TOO GREAT.

WILL  
THAT  
DO?

WE HOLD JOINT  
CONTROL OF A  
SMALL DISTRICT  
NEAR TOKYO WITH  
THE JAPANESE  
GOVERNMENT.  
YOUR PEOPLE  
CAN TAKE REFUGE  
AT OUR SAFE  
HOUSE THERE.  
WE WILL STATION  
A SQUAD OF  
BEOWULF WITH  
YOU FOR  
SECURITY.



WHERE  
IS HE?  
IS HE  
OKAY?!

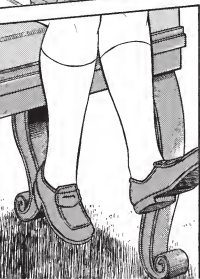
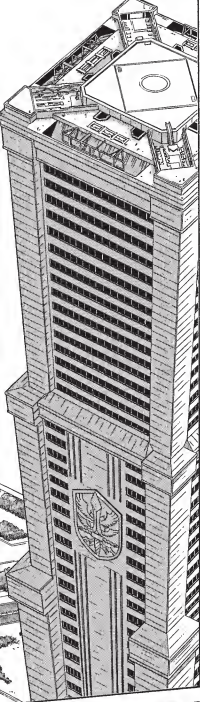
SANIN  
?!

YOU  
KNOW  
HIM,  
YOUR MAJES-  
TY?!



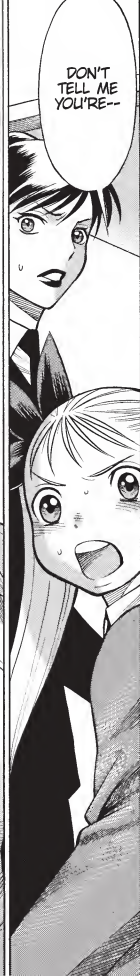
OH...  
ONE  
LAST  
QUESTION.

DO YOU  
KNOW A  
SANIN  
HUMOR-  
ESQUE?



YES.  
I'M HIS  
SISTER.

SANIN  
HUMOR-  
ESQUE  
IS MY  
LITTLE  
BROTHER!!



DON'T  
TELL ME  
YOU'RE--



YOU'RE  
THE ONE  
WHO HAD  
YULHI  
BROUGHT  
HERE,  
RIGHT?





AM I  
NOT  
ENOUGH  
?!

NECES-  
SARY  
HOW?!



THAT  
IS ALL.

BECAUSE  
IT WAS  
NECES-  
SARY.



OR ARE  
YOU JUST  
GOING TO  
KEEP  
TAKING  
THINGS  
AWAY FROM  
MOM UNTIL  
THERE'S  
NOTHING  
LEFT?



HE'S  
ONLY  
SEVEN  
YEARS  
OLD!!



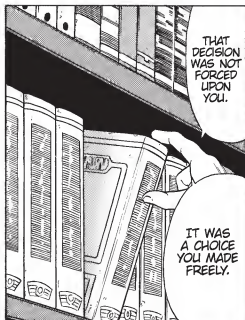
THE  
ONE TO  
DECIDE  
THAT  
WILL  
BE THE  
BOY  
HIMSELF.



LEAVE  
YUJIHI  
OUT OF  
THIS...

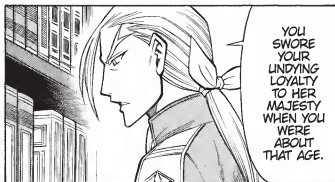
HAVING  
ME  
HERE IS  
PLENTY.  
IT HAS  
TO BE!





THAT  
DECISION  
WAS NOT  
FORCED  
UPON  
YOU.

IT WAS  
A CHOICE  
YOU MADE  
FREELY.



YOU  
SWORE  
YOUR  
LINDYING  
LOYALTY  
TO HER  
MAJESTY  
WHEN  
YOU  
WERE  
ABOUT  
THAT AGE.



B-BUT  
THAT--



AND  
KNOWING  
YOU, THAT  
WAS  
PROBABLY  
ALL PLANNED  
OUT, TOO.

BECAUSE  
I  
BELIEVED  
IT WAS  
THE RIGHT  
CHOICE.

YES.  
IT WAS.



AND YOU  
WILL  
HAVE A  
PROBLEM!!

DO  
ANYTHING  
MORE TO  
SACRIFICE  
THOSE TWO  
FOR YOUR  
INSANE  
LOYALTY TO  
HIME-SAN...

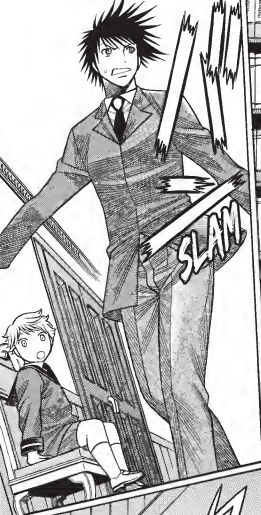


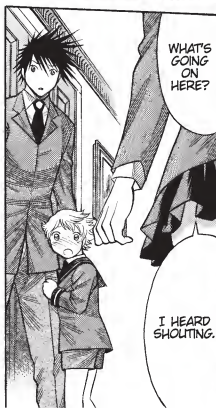
BUT  
Y'KNOW,  
THAT'S  
OKAY.  
I'VE  
MADE MY  
PEACE  
WITH IT.

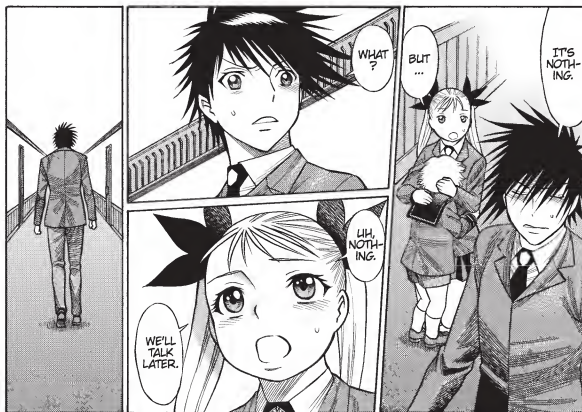
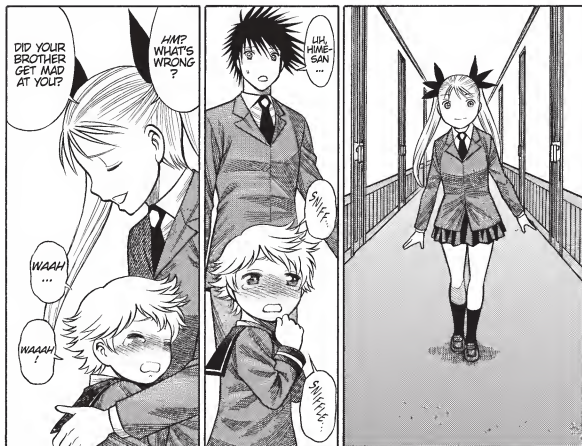
BUT MOM  
AND  
YULIHI  
ARE DIFF-  
ERENT!!

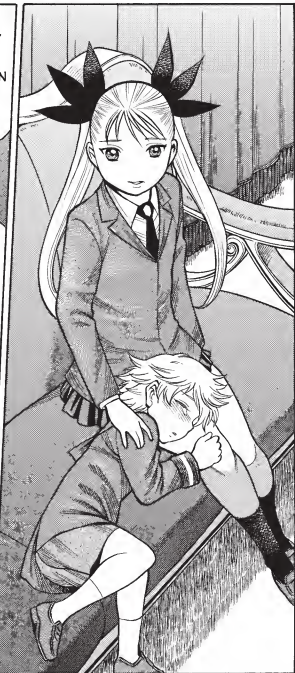
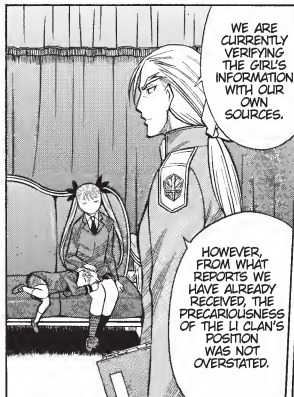
I'LL  
FOLLOW  
YOU AND  
HIME-SAN  
ALL THE  
WAY DOWN  
TO THE  
DEPTHS OF  
HELL AND  
BACK.













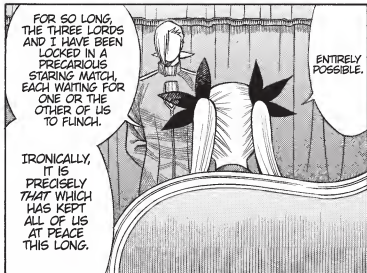


THIS MAY SOUND EXTREME, BUT PERHAPS THEY ARE MEANT AS AN ATTACK ON THE VAMPIRE RACE AS A WHOLE.



THIS FORCES US TO COMPLETELY REEVALUATE THESE NANO-MACHINES AND THEIR POSSIBLE PURPOSE.

WE HAD PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED THEY WERE SIMPLY PART OF A PLOT BY THE THREE LORDS TO SABOTAGE MY BOND, BUT SEEING AS LI NOW SUFFERS FROM THEM AS WELL, OBVIOUSLY THAT IS NOT THE CASE.



FOR SO LONG, THE THREE LORDS AND I HAVE BEEN LOCKED IN A PRECARIOUS STARING MATCH, EACH WAITING FOR ONE OR THE OTHER OF US TO FLINCH.

IRONICALLY, IT IS PRECISELY THAT WHICH HAS KEPT ALL OF US AT PEACE THIS LONG.

ENTIRELY POSSIBLE.

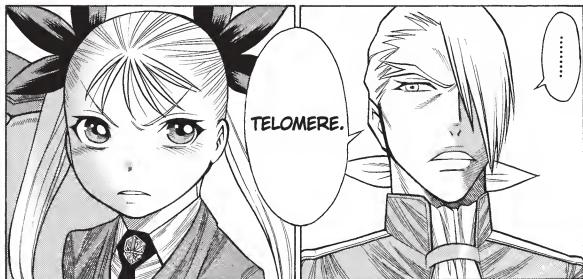


NOW SOMEONE IS DELIBERATELY UPSETTING THAT BALANCE.

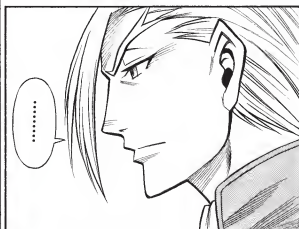


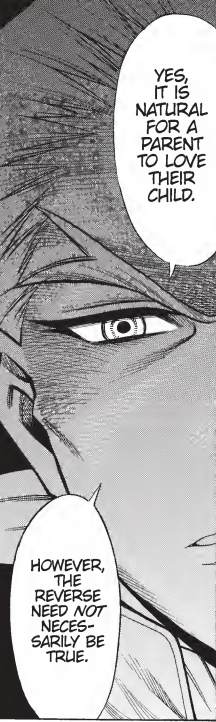
THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN UNLEASHED UPON LI. IT IS NOT UNTHINKABLE THAT THE NANOVIC AND ROZENMANN CLANS HAVE ALSO BEEN INFECTED.





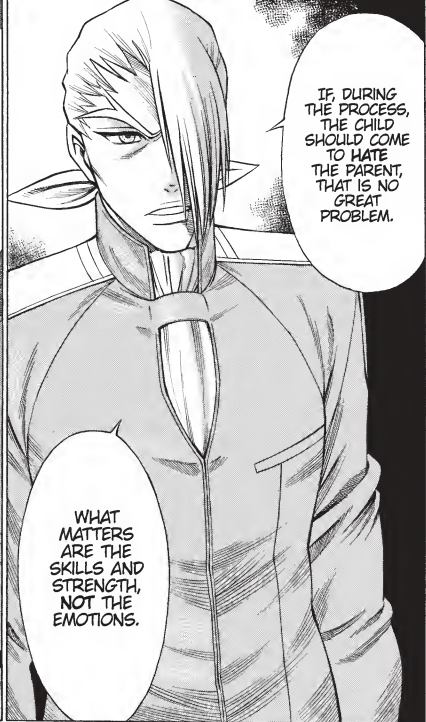






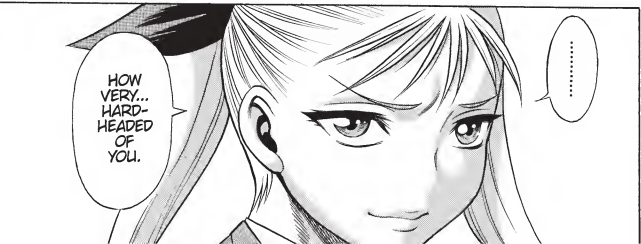
YES,  
IT IS  
NATURAL  
FOR A  
PARENT  
TO LOVE  
THEIR  
CHILD.

HOWEVER,  
THE  
REVERSE  
NEED NOT  
NECES-  
SARILY BE  
TRUE.



IF, DURING  
THE PROCESS,  
THE CHILD  
SHOULD COME  
TO HATE  
THE PARENT,  
THAT IS NO  
GREAT  
PROBLEM.

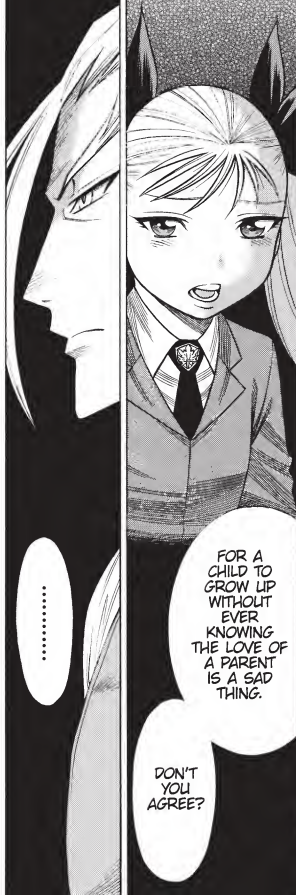
WHAT  
MATTERS  
ARE THE  
SKILLS AND  
STRENGTH,  
NOT THE  
EMOTIONS.



HOW  
VERY...  
HARD-  
HEADED  
OF  
YOU.

.....





.....

FOR A CHILD TO GROW UP WITHOUT EVER KNOWING THE LOVE OF A PARENT IS A SAD THING.

DON'T YOU AGREE?



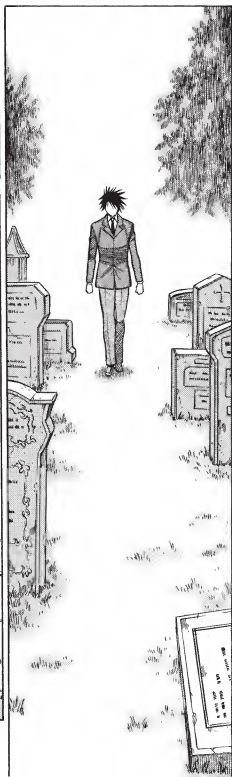
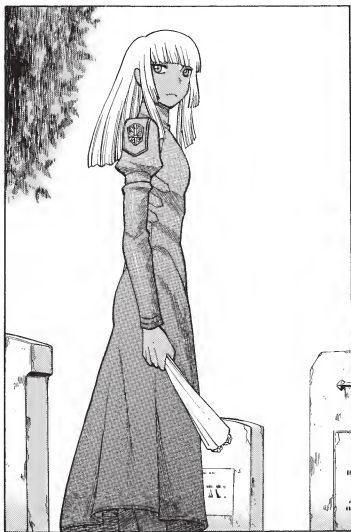
THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES WHEN I HAVE CURSED MY MOTHER FOR BEARING ME. MANY TIMES.

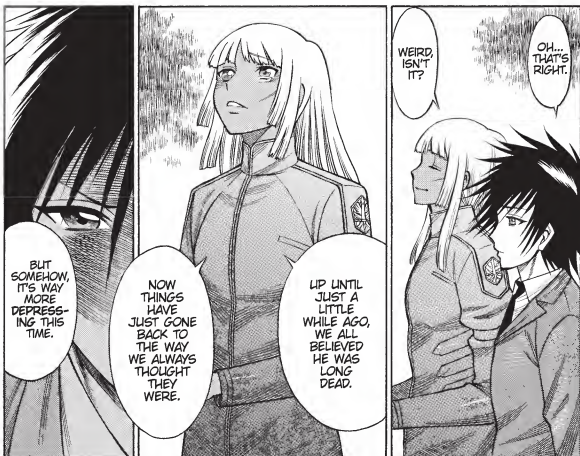
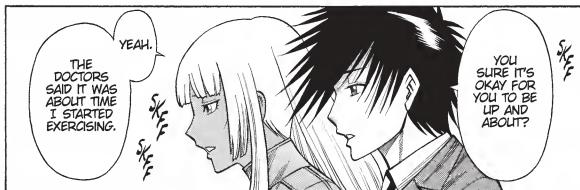


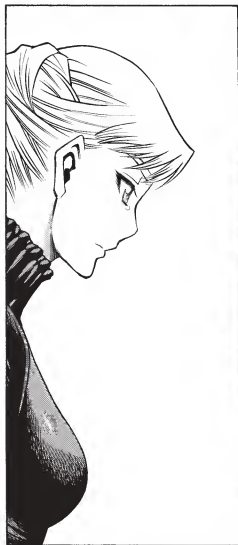
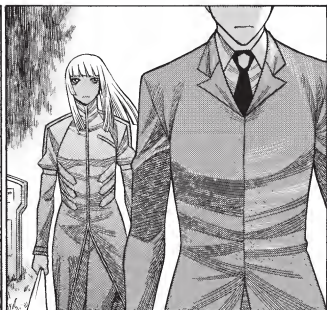
BUT I HAVE NEVER DOUBTED EVEN FOR A MOMENT THAT SHE LOVED ME.

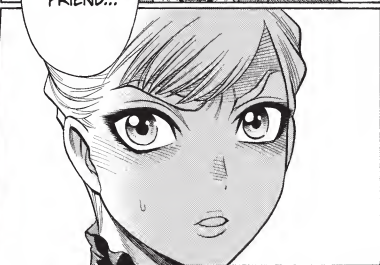
EVEN NOW, IT IS BECAUSE OF HER UNHESITATING, UNSTINTING LOVE THAT I AM ABLE TO BEAR THIS LIFE, DAY IN AND DAY OUT.

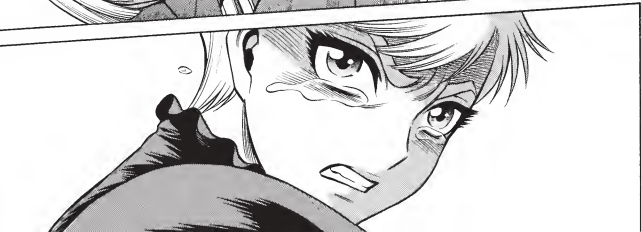
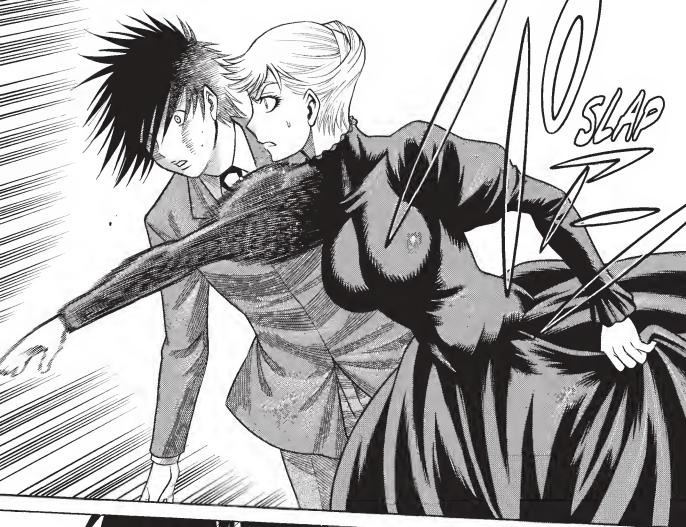
















YOU  
MUR-  
DERER  
!!



MUR-  
DERER  
...

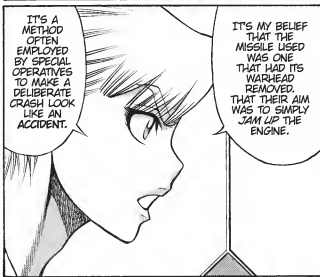
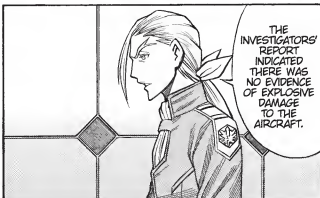
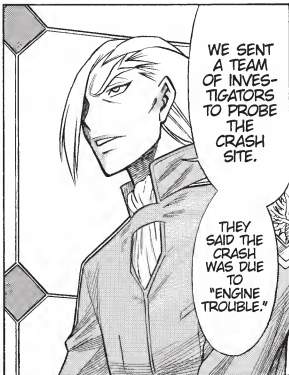
## Chapter 46: The Family Plot

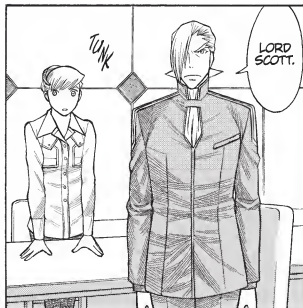


THAT DAY  
WAS A  
TRAGEDY...

MY  
SURVIVAL,  
DESPITE  
EVERYTHING  
THAT  
HAPPENED,  
WAS NOTHING  
SHORT OF A  
MIRACLE.

ONLY I  
MADE IT.  
MOTHER  
AND  
FATHER...  
WEREN'T  
AS LUCKY  
AS I.



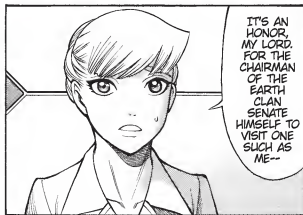


LORD  
SCOTT.



MOS-  
COW,  
HM...

THAT  
WOULD  
MAKE THIS  
IVANOVIC'S  
DOING,  
YES?

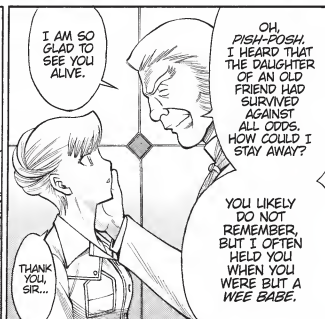


IT'S AN  
HONOR,  
MY LORD.  
FOR THE  
CHAIRMAN  
OF THE  
EARTH  
CLAN  
SENATE  
SENATE  
HIMSELF TO  
VISIT ONE  
SUCH AS  
ME--



THINKING  
BACK ON IT,  
THERE  
WERE MANY  
SUSPICIOUS  
FACTORS  
SURROUNDING  
YOUR  
"ACCIDENT."

EVENTS  
BEGIN TO  
MAKE  
MUCH MORE  
SENSE WHEN  
VIEWING  
THEM AS A  
DELIBERATE  
ACT OF  
SABOTAGE BY  
IVANOVIC.

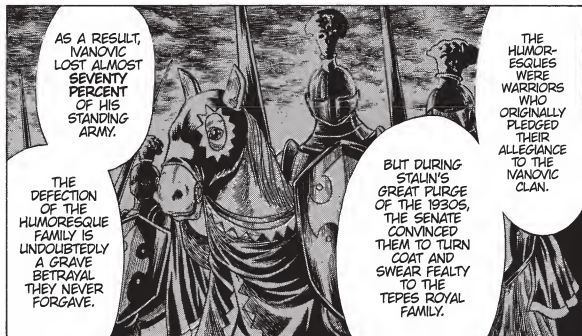


I AM SO  
GLAD TO  
SEE YOU  
ALIVE.

OH,  
PISH-POSH.  
I HEARD THAT  
THE DAUGHTER  
OF AN OLD  
FRIEND HAD  
SURVIVED  
AGAINST  
ALL ODDS.  
HOW COULD I  
STAY AWAY?

YOU LIKELY  
DO NOT  
REMEMBER,  
BUT I OFTEN  
HELD YOU  
WHEN YOU  
WERE BUT A  
WEE BABE.

THANK  
YOU,  
SIR...



AS A RESULT,  
NANOVIC  
LOST ALMOST  
SEVENTY  
PERCENT  
OF HIS  
STANDING  
ARMY.

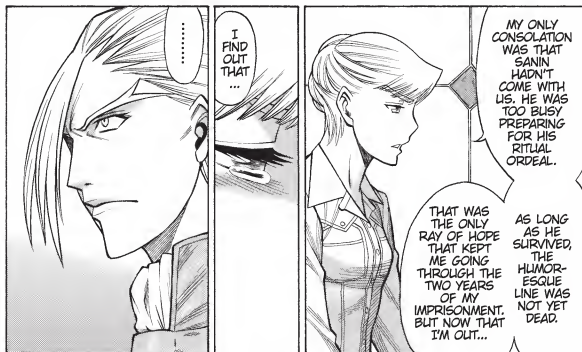
THE  
DEFECTION  
OF THE  
HUMORESQUE  
FAMILY IS  
UNDoubtedly  
A GRAVE  
BETRAYAL  
THEY NEVER  
FORGAVE.

BUT DURING  
STALIN'S  
GREAT PURGE  
OF THE 1930S,  
THE SENATE  
CONVINCED  
THEM TO TURN  
COAT AND  
SWEAR FEALTY  
TO THE  
TEPES ROYAL  
FAMILY.

THE  
HUMOR-  
ESQUES  
WERE  
WARRIORS  
WHO  
ORIGINALLY  
PLEGGED  
THEIR  
ALLEGIANCE  
TO THE  
NANOVIC  
CLAN.



REVENGE  
...



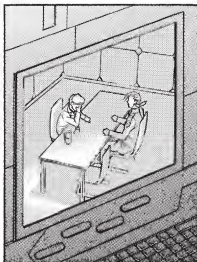
I  
FIND  
OUT  
THAT  
...

MY ONLY  
CONSOLATION  
WAS THAT  
SANIN  
HADN'T  
COME WITH  
US. HE WAS  
TOO BUSY  
PREPARING  
FOR HIS  
RITUAL  
ORDEAL.

THAT WAS  
THE ONLY  
RAY OF HOPE  
THAT KEPT  
ME GOING  
THROUGH THE  
TWO YEARS  
OF MY  
IMPRISONMENT.  
BUT NOW THAT  
I'M OUT...

AS LONG  
AS HE  
SURVIVED,  
THE  
HUMOR-  
ESQUE  
LINE WAS  
NOT YET  
DEAD.





THEY  
FOUND  
ME  
THERE,  
TOOK ME  
IN AND  
HID ME.



I JUST  
KEPT  
RUNNING  
AND  
RUNNING,  
UNTIL I  
FOUND  
MYSELF  
ON THE  
BORDER  
OF  
CHINA.



I USED  
EVERY  
TRICK I  
COULD  
THINK OF  
TO STAY  
AHEAD  
OF MY  
PUR-  
SUERS.



RETURNING  
TO THE  
TOPIC AT  
HAND,  
HOW DID  
YOU  
ESCAPE?

I  
ESCAPED  
IN THE  
CONFU-  
SION.



SIX  
MONTHS  
AGO,  
THERE  
WAS A  
HUGE  
INCIDENT  
AT THE  
PRISON...



EVERY-  
ONE  
ELSE,  
EVEN MY  
BROTHER,  
IS GONE  
NOW.

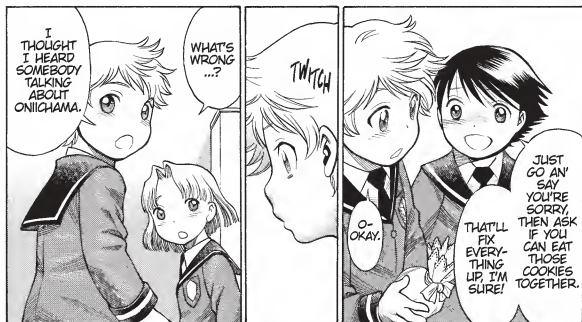
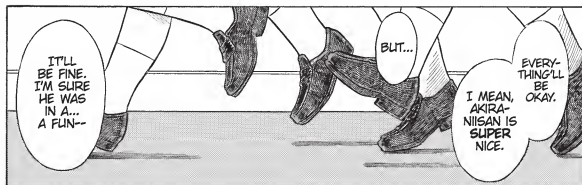
THEY'RE  
ALL I  
HAVE  
LEFT.

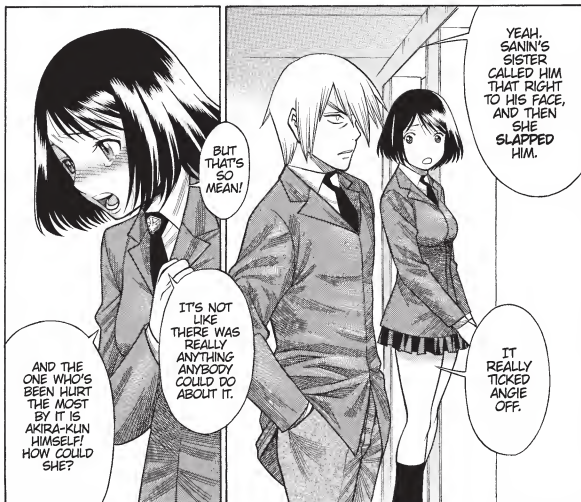
THEY'RE  
MY  
FAMILY  
NOW.

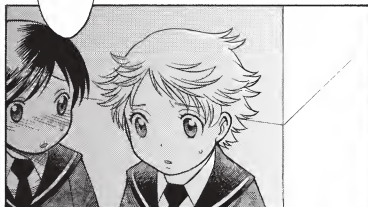
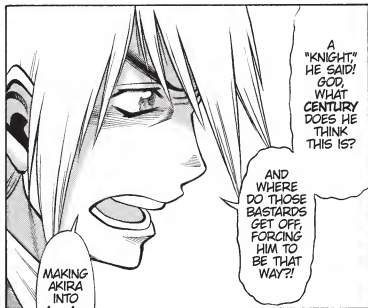
EVERYTHING  
THAT I HAD  
BEEN FORCED TO  
ENDURE DURING  
THAT TIME HAD  
LEFT ME ALL  
BUT BROKEN.  
BUT LIVING  
TOGETHER WITH  
THEM HEALED  
BOTH MY BODY  
AND MY SOUL.

NOW  
IT'S MY  
TURN  
TO SAVE  
THEM.

THAT IS  
WHY I  
DECIDED TO  
BRING  
THEM  
HERE.





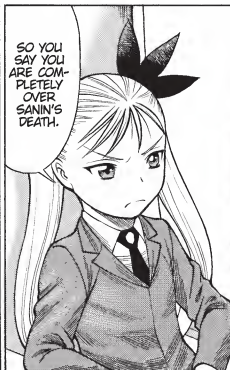






I'VE  
AC-  
CEPTED  
IT.

I'M  
NOT  
"OVER  
IT."



SO YOU  
SAY YOU  
ARE COM-  
PLETELY  
OVER  
SANIN'S  
DEATH.



BUT I  
DO NOT  
RECALL  
YOU  
ASKING ME  
IF THIS  
IS THE  
KIND OF  
"KNIGHT"  
I WISHED  
YOU TO  
BE.

I  
RECALL  
YOU  
SWEAR-  
ING TO  
BECOME  
MY  
KNIGHT...



SO I TAKE  
IT THAT  
MEANS  
YOU HAVE  
SIMPLY  
GIVEN UP,  
CORRECT?

HOW  
VERY  
ZEN  
OF  
YOU.



HUH?



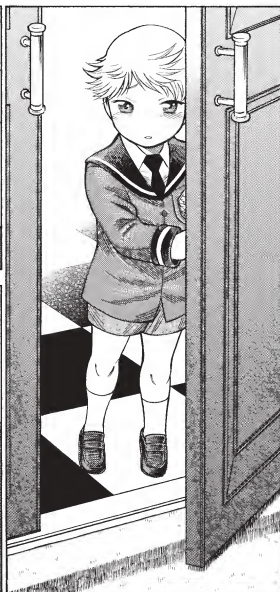
HMPH.  
LIKE FATHER,  
LIKE SON.  
BOTH  
BULL-  
HEADED.



WHAT  
YOU  
WANT  
HAS  
NOTHING  
TO DO  
WITH  
THIS.



YULHI  
?



DID  
YOU  
REALLY  
DO IT?

ONI-  
CHAMA  
...



THEY  
WERE ALL  
LYING.  
YOU  
DIDN'T  
DO IT.  
RIGHT?  
ONII-  
CHAMA...



YOU...  
YOU  
DIDN'T  
KILL  
YOUR  
FRIEND,  
RIGHT  
...?



YOU  
DIDN'T,  
RIGHT?



STUFF  
LIKE THAT  
ISN'T  
SOME-  
THING  
LITTLE  
KIDS LIKE  
YOU  
SHOULD  
GO  
AROUND  
TALKING  
ABOUT!!



WHERE  
DID YOU  
HEAR  
THAT?!

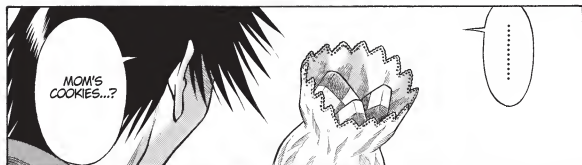


GOD!  
IT'S  
BECAUSE  
YOU KEEP  
RUNNING  
AROUND  
HERE THAT  
YOU HEAR  
THAT  
CRAP!!

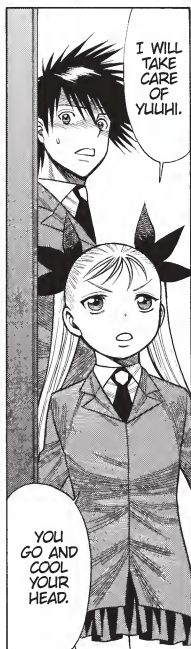


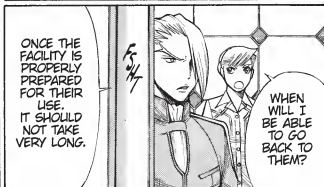
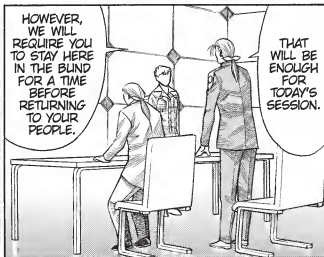
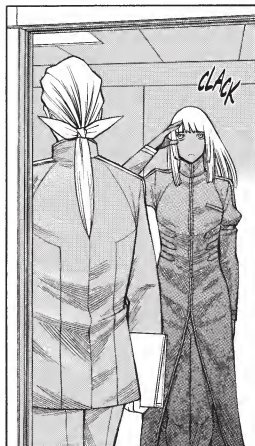
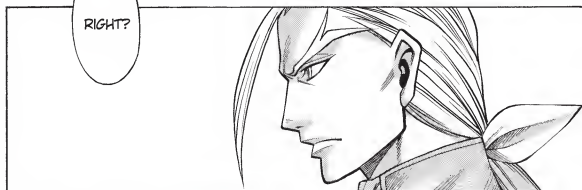
I'VE  
TOLD  
YOU  
ONCE,  
AND I'LL  
TELL YOU  
AGAIN--  
GO  
HOME!  
NOW!!

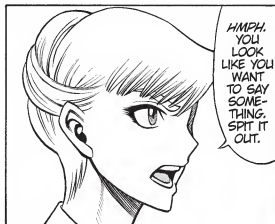




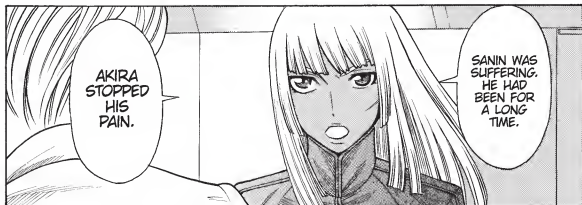
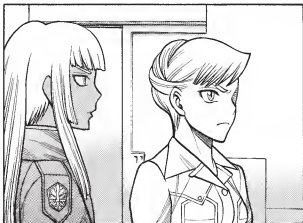








HMPH.  
YOU  
LOOK  
LIKE YOU  
WANT  
TO SAY  
SOME-  
THING.  
SPIT IT  
OUT.



AKIRA  
STOPPED  
HIS PAIN.

SANIN WAS  
SUFFERING.  
HE HAD  
BEEN FOR  
A LONG  
TIME.



AS IS  
THE  
ORGANI-  
ZATION  
THAT  
DEMANDED  
IT.

THEN  
THAT  
DUTY IS  
WRONG.



HE  
HAD  
NO  
CHOICE  
!

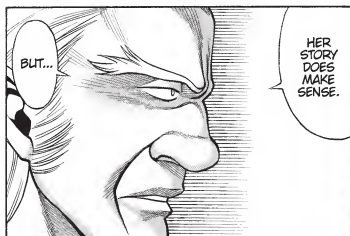
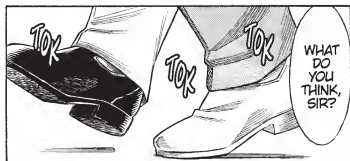
WELL,  
IF  
THAT'S  
THE  
CASE...

HE DID  
WHAT  
HE HAD  
TO DO!  
WHAT  
HIS DUTY  
AS A  
BEOWULF  
SOLDIER  
DEMAN-  
DED  
HE DO!



SO I  
SHOULD  
THANK  
HIM?

I'M  
SUPPOSED  
TO TELL HIM  
OH-SO-  
POLITELY,  
"THANK  
YOU FOR  
MURDERING  
MY BELOVED  
LITTLE  
BROTHER"?





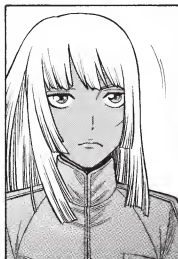
MY  
SENTI-  
MENTS  
EXACTLY,  
SIR.



THEN  
THAT'S ALL  
WELL AND  
GOOD.  
IF SHE  
HASN'T,  
THEN AT  
LEAST  
WE ARE  
PREPARED.

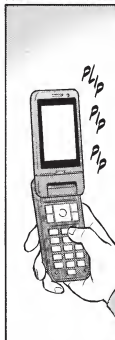


KEEP  
AN EYE  
ON HER.  
IF SHE'S  
TOLD  
US THE  
TRUTH...



TAKE  
CARE  
OF IT  
FOR  
ME.

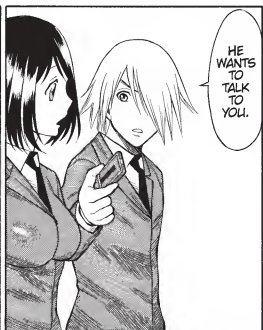
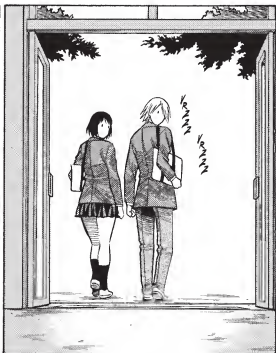
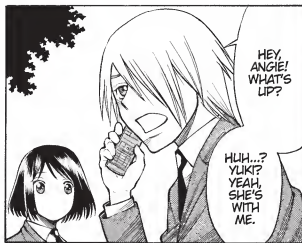
ANGIE  
...

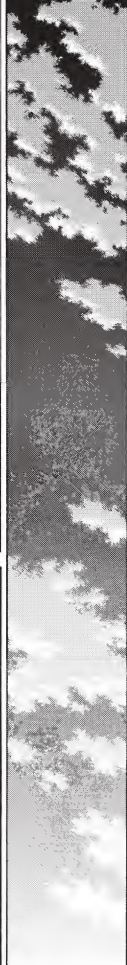
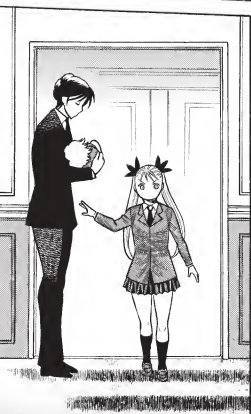
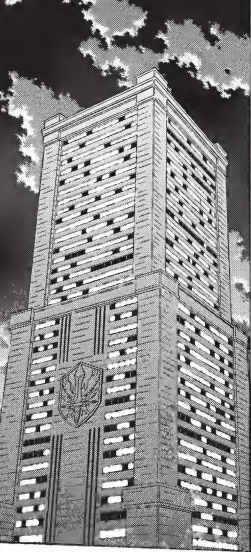


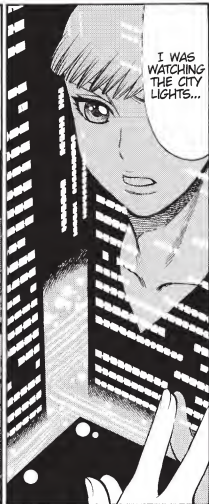
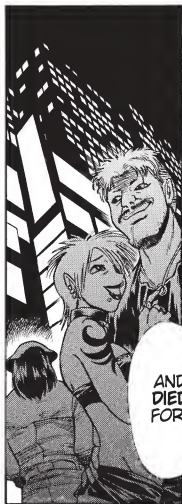
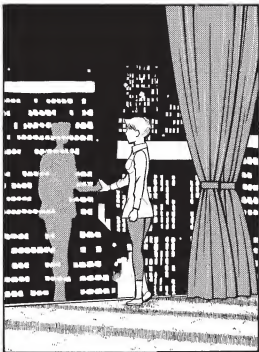
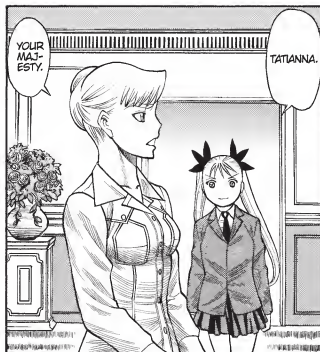
P!p  
P!p  
P!p

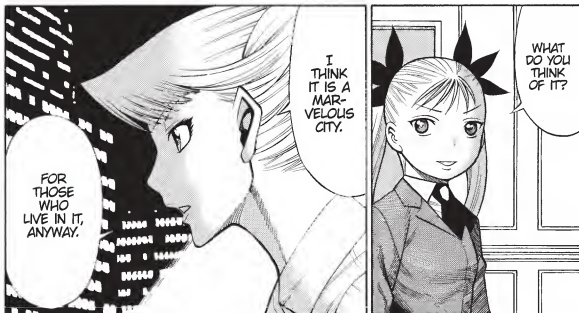




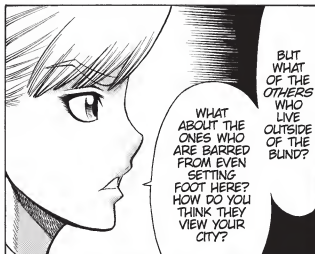












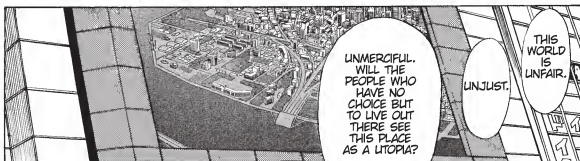
WHAT ABOUT THE ONES WHO ARE BARRED FROM EVEN SETTING FOOT HERE? HOW DO YOU THINK THEY VIEW YOUR CITY?

BUT WHAT OF THE OTHERS WHO LIVE OUTSIDE OF THE BLIND?



VERY TRUE, YOUR MAJESTY. BECAUSE THEY'RE VAMPIRES.

BUT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO LIVE HERE SOME-DAY.



UNMERCIFUL. WILL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LIVE OUT THERE SEE THIS PLACE AS A UTOPIA?

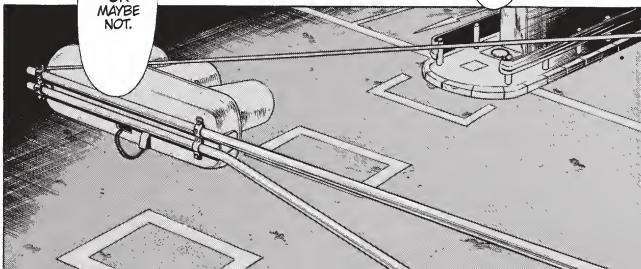
UNJUST.

THIS WORLD IS UNFAIR.

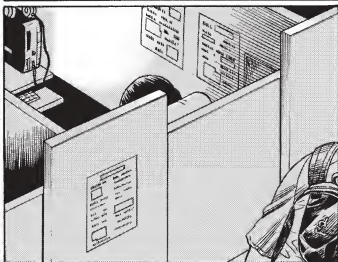
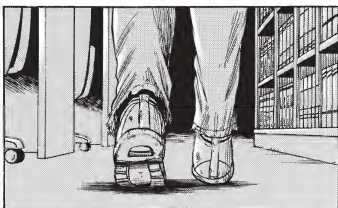


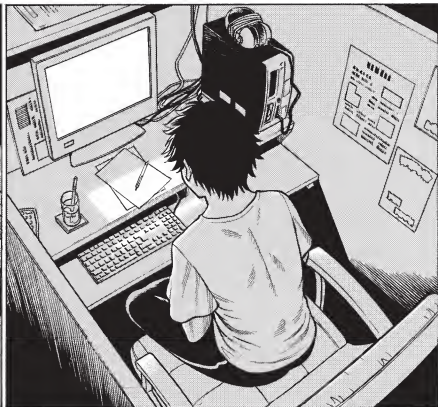
MAYBE...

OR MAYBE NOT.







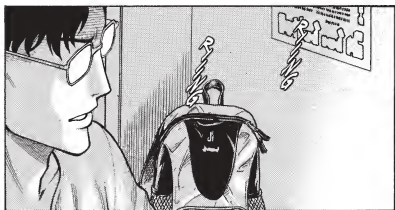


881 :NAMELESSFORTODAY: 200X/03/05(THUR) 03:14:51  
IS IT JUST ME, OR HAS THE AGENCY BEEN SENDING, LIKE, NO MAIL LATELY?

882 :NAMELESS: 200X/03/05(THUR) 19:39:34  
DUDE, IT'S BEEN 3 DAYS AND NADA. WHAT'RE WE SUPPOSED TO DO? STARVE?

883 :NAMELESSFORTODAY: 200X/03/05(THUR) 20:06:17  
IT'S THE ECONOMY, MAN. IT SUCKS.

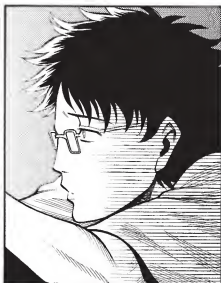
884 :NAMELESSFORTODAY: 200X/03/06(FRI) 02:24:09  
I'M IN SERIOUS TROUBLE HERE, GUYS. I'M SO BROKE I CAN BARELY PAY FOR THE NET CAFE ANYMORE!











922 :NAMELESSFORTODAY: 20  
HEY, DID YOU GUYS HEAR?  
THEY'RE GOING TO BE  
PUTTING UP SOME VAMPIRES  
OVER HERE ON OUR SIDE.





FOR REAL?!

YOU'RE SHITTING ME! WHERE?!

SOMEWHERE OVER IN THAT JOINT DISTRICT: IT'S GOTTA BE!

NO WAY!

WHOA! REAL VAMPIRES! 登場!

MAN, I WANNA ASK ONE TO BITE ME.

JUST ONCE したい。

THIS IS SO UNFAIR—THOSE BASTARDS GAVE UP THEIR HUMANITY. 人間をやつたXXのツラくせえ

WHY DO THEY GET TO HAVE IT SO EASY?

WE CAN'T LET THEM GET AWAY WITH KEEPING ALL THE GOOD STUFF TO THEMSELVES! いい思いとせん!!

DUDE, I'M SO WAITING AT THE DOOR FOR ONE TO COME OUT.

YOU WANNA GO? SHOULD WE ALL GO?

SOMEBODY MAKE ME INTO A VAMPIRE してくれ

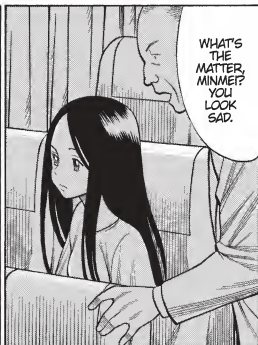
I WANNA GO LIVE IN THE BUND TOO! たい。

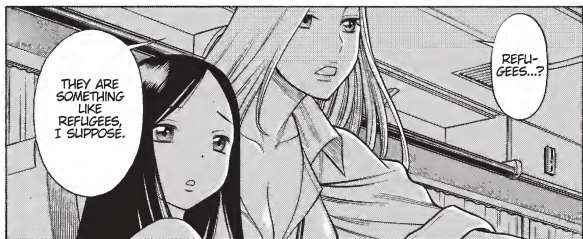
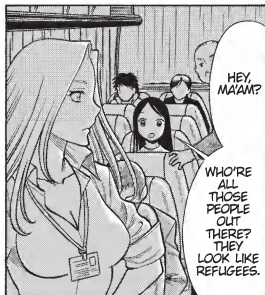
I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE. WHO GIVES A DAMN ABOUT STAYING HUMAN? いやめてえ。

WHO! TAKE A LOOK AT THIS THREAD.

IT'S GOT OVER 1000 RESPONSES! たくさん返ってきた









WHAT  
ARE THEY  
RUNNING  
AWAY  
FROM?



**Chapter 47: Gills**

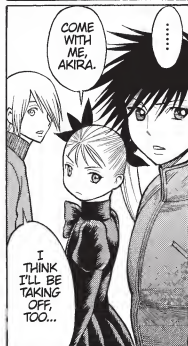
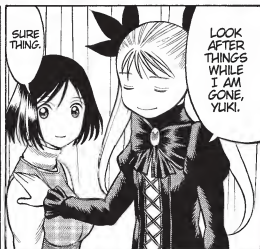


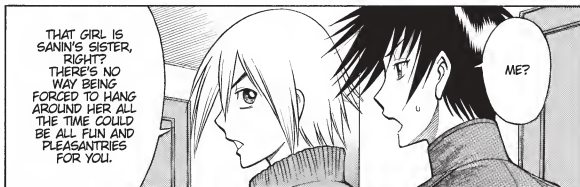
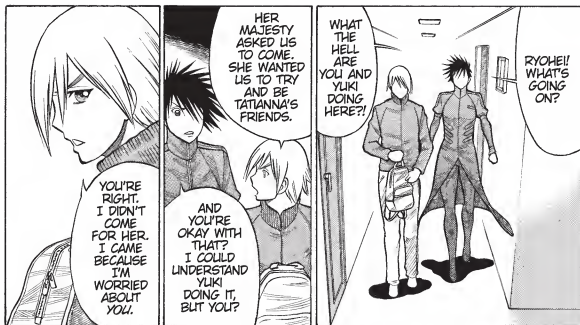


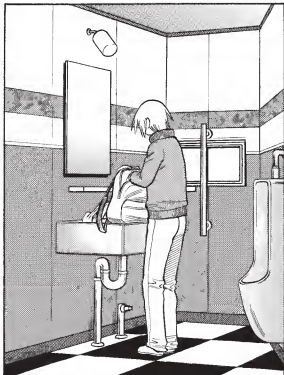
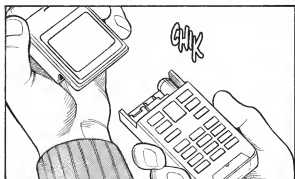
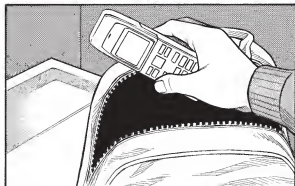
I'M  
COMING  
IN,  
HIME-  
SAN.



HM?  
WHAT IS  
WRONG,  
AKIRA?





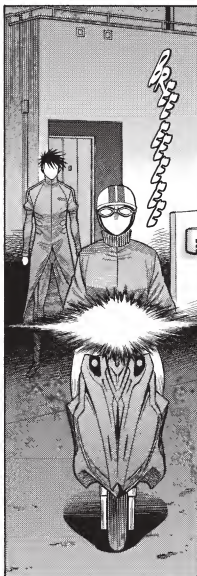


LET'S GO.  
HIME-SAN'S  
ALREADY LONG GONE.

SORRY, MAN.  
GUESS I  
DRANK WAY  
TOO MUCH  
TEA.



HEY, RYOHEI,  
YOU STILL  
ALIVE IN  
THERE?  
YOU'RE  
TAKING  
FOREVER  
...







OH. THAT'S  
RIGHT. AKIRA MAKES  
REALLY GOOD TEA,  
TOO.

OKAY!!

WOULD  
YOU PLEASE?

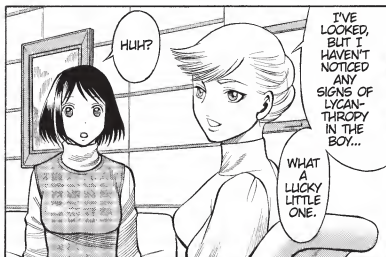


YEAH.  
MOTHER  
TAUGHT  
ME.



I'LL  
DO IT!

HUIH?  
YOU  
CAN DO  
THAT,  
YULHI-  
KUN?



HUIH?

I'VE  
LOOKED,  
BUT I  
HAVEN'T  
NOTICED  
ANY  
SIGNS OF  
LYCAN-  
THROPY  
IN THE BOY...

WHAT  
A  
LUCKY  
LITTLE  
ONE.

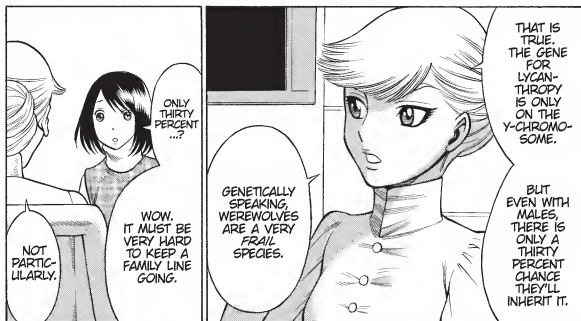


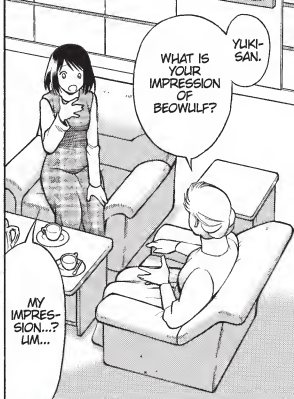
NO...  
ALL I  
KNOW IS  
THAT GIRLS  
DON'T  
EVER  
BECOME  
WERE-  
WOLVES.

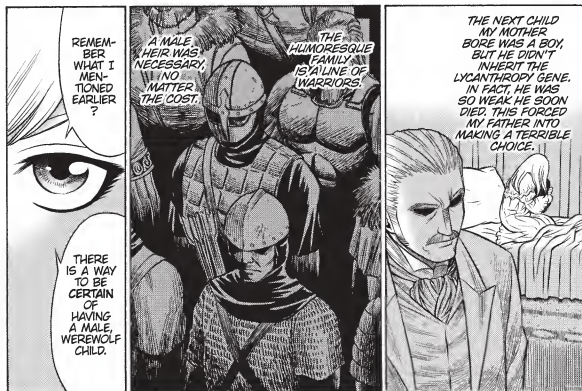
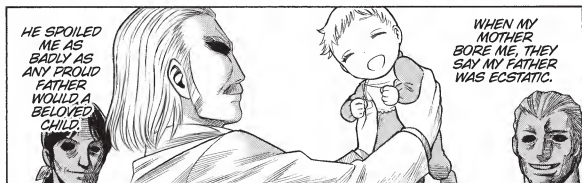
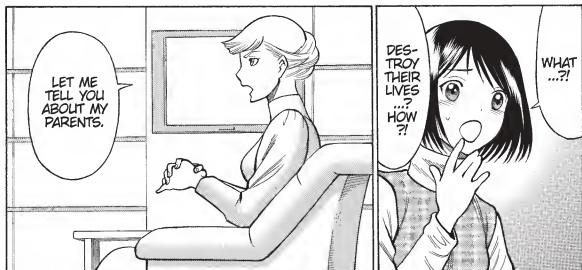


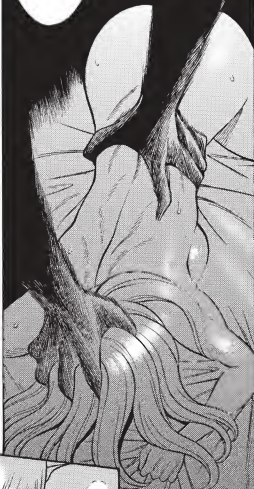
DIDN'T  
YOU  
KNOW  
?

JUST  
BECAUSE  
ONE IS BORN  
INTO THE  
EARTH CLAN  
DOESN'T  
AUTOMATI-  
CALLY MEAN  
ONE IS A  
WEREWOLF.









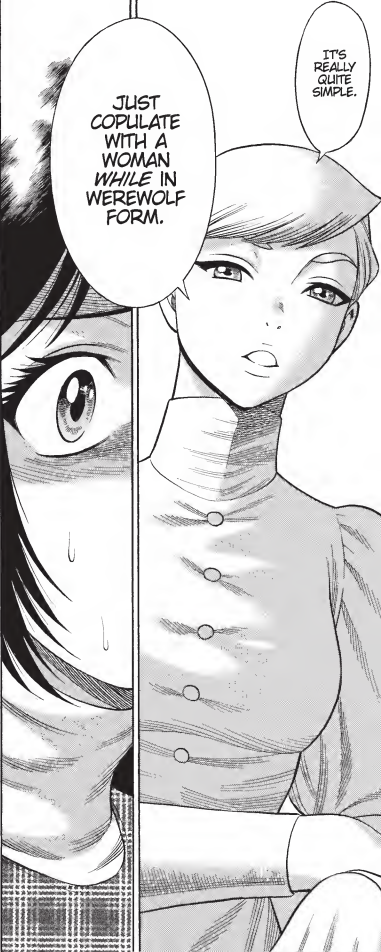
BUT MY  
MOTHER  
FOUND THE  
BRAVERY  
TO ENDURE  
IT.

ALTHOUGH  
THE MAN MAY  
BE A BELOVED  
HUSBAND,  
TO GIVE ONESELF  
OVER TO HIM  
AS A BEAST IS  
A HORRIBLY  
FRIGHTENING  
PROSPECT...



HOW-  
EVER  
...

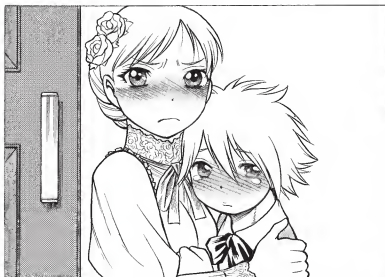
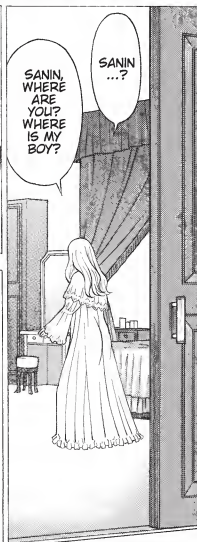
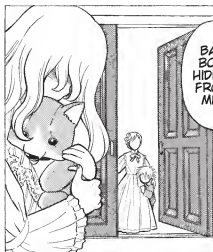
SHE WAS  
DETERMINED  
TO BEAR  
MY FATHER  
THE CHILD  
HE WANTED,  
YOU SEE.



JUST  
COPULATE  
WITH A  
WOMAN  
WHILE IN  
WEREWOLF  
FORM.

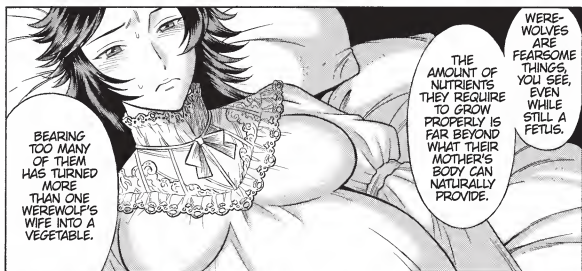
IT'S  
REALLY  
QUITE  
SIMPLE.







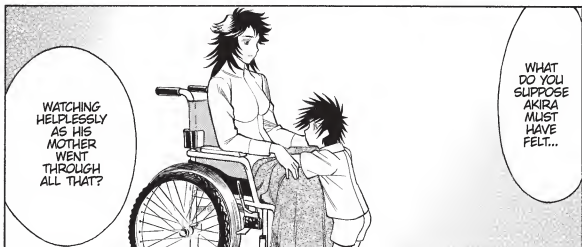
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, THE LADY REGENDOLF SHATTERED HER HEALTH BEARING HERS, AND WILL SPEND THE REST OF HER LIFE IN A WHEELCHAIR.



BEARING TOO MANY OF THEM HAS TURNED MORE THAN ONE WEREWOLF'S WIFE INTO A VEGETABLE.

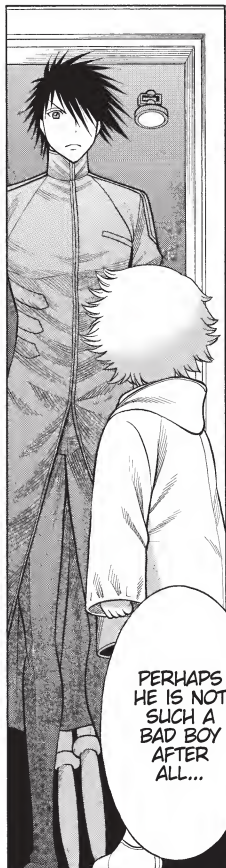
THE AMOUNT OF NUTRIENTS THEY REQUIRE TO GROW PROPERLY IS FAR BEYOND WHAT THEIR MOTHER'S BODY CAN NATURALLY PROVIDE.

WERE-WOLVES ARE FEARSOME THINGS, YOU SEE, EVEN WHILE STILL A FETUS.



WATCHING HELPLESSLY AS HIS MOTHER WENT THROUGH ALL THAT?

WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE AKIRA MUST HAVE FELT...



PERHAPS  
HE IS NOT  
SUCH A  
BAD BOY  
AFTER  
ALL...

THIS  
IS  
WHY.

YOU  
WONDERED  
WHY I  
COULDN'T  
RETURN  
YOUR  
FEELINGS.



HE IS  
MORE  
CONSIDERATE  
THAN I  
THOUGHT...



DID HE  
THINK  
HE MUST  
KEEP  
EVERYONE  
AT A  
DISTANCE?

THAT IT  
WOULD BE  
BETTER,  
SAFER,  
IF NO ONE  
EVER  
GOT TOO  
CLOSE?



HEY!  
LISTEN  
WHEN  
I--!!

ONI-  
CHAMA!!



DO YOU  
WANT TO  
LEAVE  
HER ALL  
BY  
HERSELF?



GO  
HOME,  
YULHI.  
GO  
BACK  
TO MOM.



YULHI!

THAT'S  
WHY  
YOU'RE  
BEING  
SO  
MEAN.  
YOU  
HATE  
ME!

YOU  
DO!!

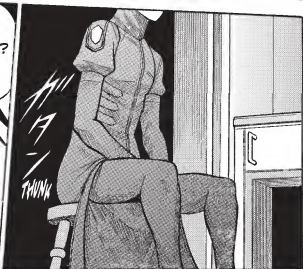


AND  
NOW I  
FINALLY  
GOT  
TO SEE  
YOU...

I  
MISSED  
YOU  
LOTS  
AND  
LOTS!



YOU  
HATE  
ME  
NOW,  
DON'T  
YOU...?

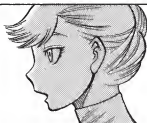






THE  
EARTH  
CLAN IS  
A VERY  
PROUD  
CLAN.

ITS  
MEMBERS  
LIVE  
STRICTLY  
HONORABLE  
AND  
EMINENTLY  
MASCULINE  
LIVES.

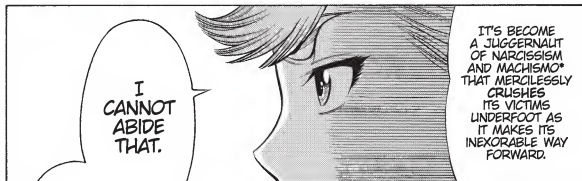


EVEN  
MINE.

AKIRA'S  
LIFE.

SANIN'S  
LIFE.

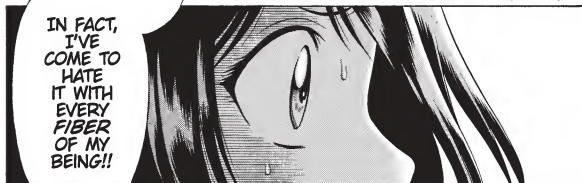
BUT SUCH  
EXCESSIVE  
PRIDE  
DEMANDS  
SACRIFICES.



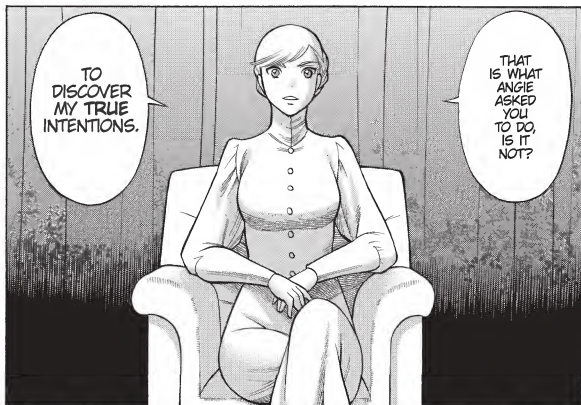
I  
CANNOT  
ABIDE  
THAT.

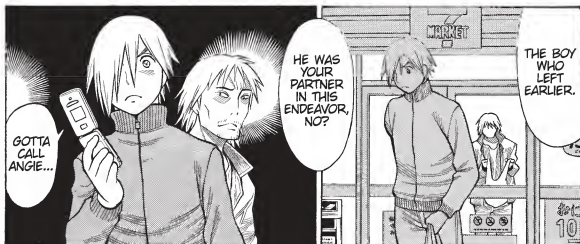
IT'S BECOME  
A JUGGERNAUT  
OF NARCISSISM  
AND MACHISMO\*  
THAT MERCILESSLY  
CRUSHES  
ITS VICTIMS  
UNDERFOOT AS  
IT MAKES ITS  
INEXORABLE WAY  
FORWARD.

\*Machismo = excessive pride in being male.



IN FACT,  
I'VE  
COME TO  
HATE  
IT WITH  
EVERY  
FIBER  
OF MY  
BEING!!





HE WAS  
YOUR  
PARTNER  
IN THIS  
ENDEAVOR,  
NO?

THE BOY  
WHO  
LEFT  
EARLIER.

GOTTA  
CALL  
ANGIE...



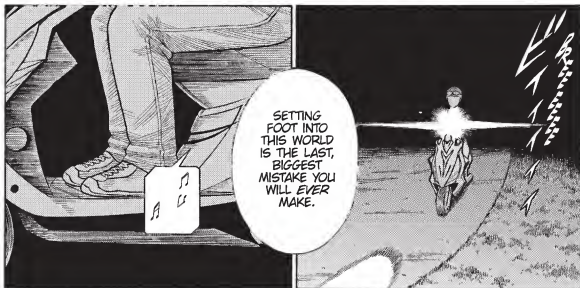
BINGO.  
HOW  
COURAGEOUS  
OF YOU.



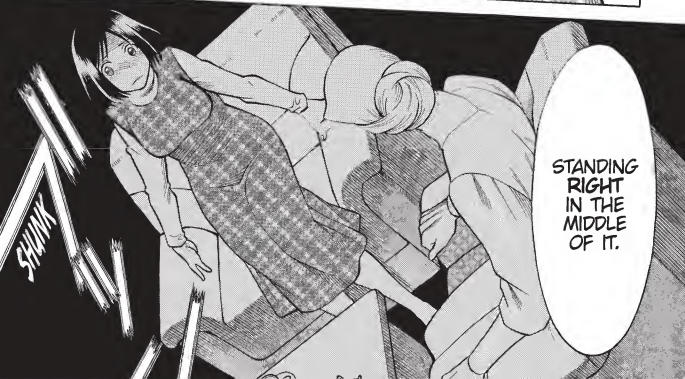
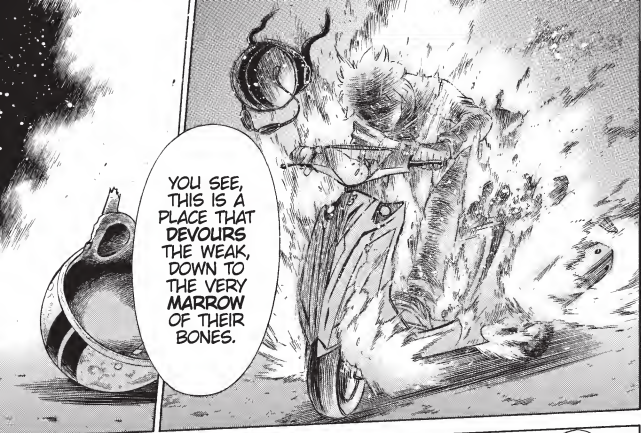
HIGH  
SCHOOL  
CHILDREN  
TEAMING UP  
AND PLAYING  
DETECTIVE IS  
SUCCESSFUL  
ONLY IN  
STORIES.

IT WAS  
ALSO  
VERY  
FOOLISH  
OF YOU.

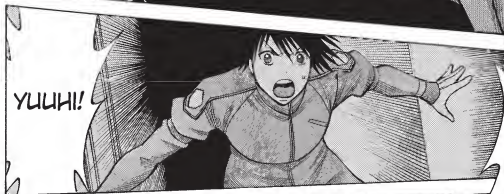
HOW-  
EVER  
...



SETTING  
FOOT INTO  
THIS WORLD  
IS THE LAST,  
BIGGEST  
MISTAKE YOU  
WILL EVER  
MAKE.







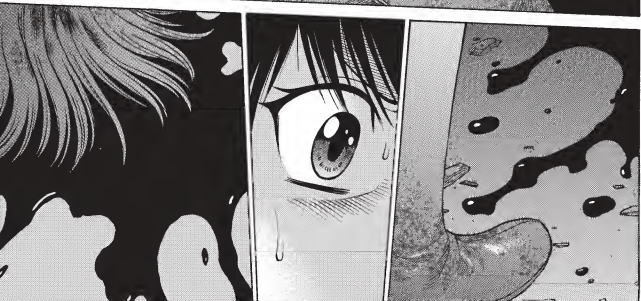
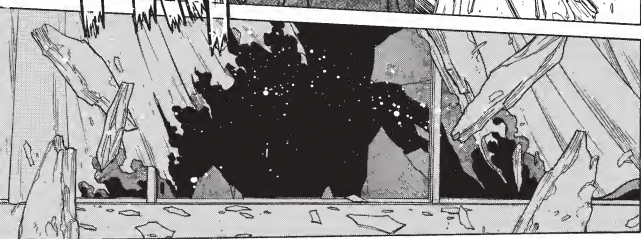
ONII-  
CHAMA!



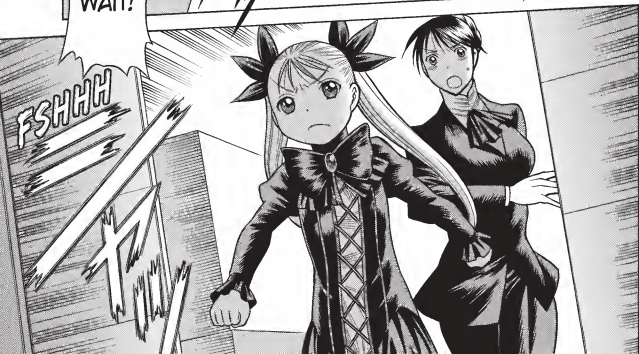
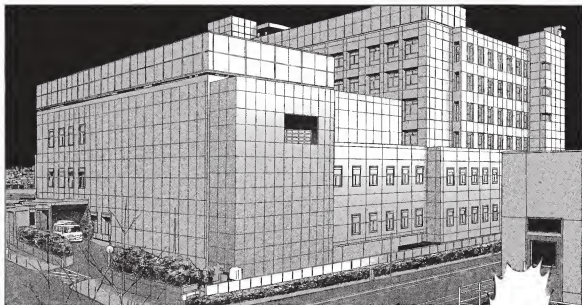
IT  
WON'T  
OPEN!!

YUHIH!!





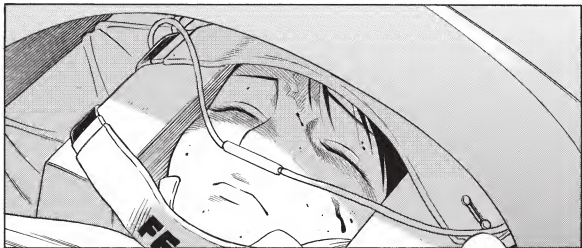




## Chapter 48: Howl of Lament



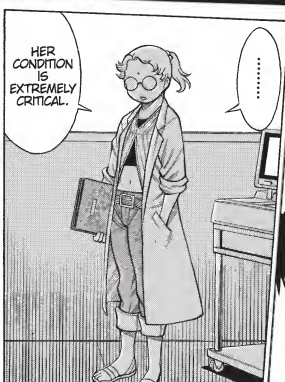


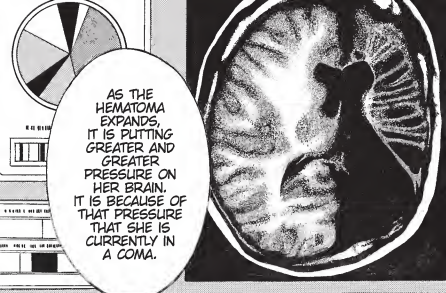






AKIRA,  
WHAT  
ARE  
YOU  
SAYING  
?





AS THE  
HEMATOMA  
EXPANDS,  
IT IS PUTTING  
GREATER AND  
GREATER  
PRESSURE ON  
HER BRAIN.  
IT IS BECAUSE OF  
THAT PRESSURE  
THAT SHE IS  
CURRENTLY IN  
A COMA.

A medical monitor with a circular dial and a small rectangular display is visible in the top left corner. To the right, a large circular CT scan of a brain shows a prominent dark mass in the center.

THE BLUNT-  
FORCE TRAUMA  
TO THE PTERION  
REGION OF HER  
SKULL WAS  
STRONG ENOUGH  
TO CAUSE AN  
EPIDURAL  
HEMATOMA,  
BLEEDING  
BETWEEN THE  
SKULL AND THE  
PROTECTIVE  
MEMBRANE THAT  
SURROUNDS  
THE BRAIN.

BRAIN  
DEATH.

THE  
LONGER THIS  
CONDITION  
CONTINUES,  
THE MORE  
DAMAGE  
IS DONE.  
WORST CASE  
SCENARIO  
IS...

I CAN'T,  
YOUR  
MAJESTY.  
THERE IS  
NO CURE  
FOR HER  
CONDITION.

TELL  
ME  
HOW  
YOU  
ARE  
GOING  
TO  
HEAL  
HER!

ENOUGH  
WITH  
THE  
THEAT-  
RICS!



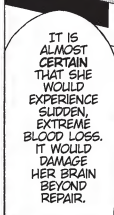
SO YOU...  
CANNOT  
SAVE HER...?



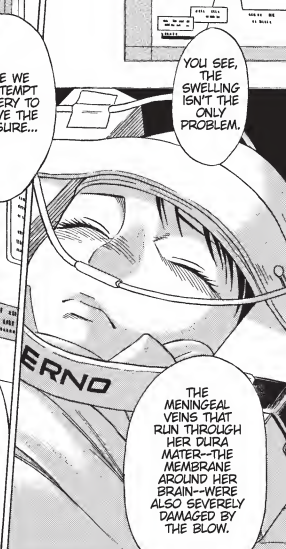
NOT  
AT ALL  
...?



WERE WE  
TO ATTEMPT  
SURGERY TO  
RELIEVE THE  
PRESSURE...

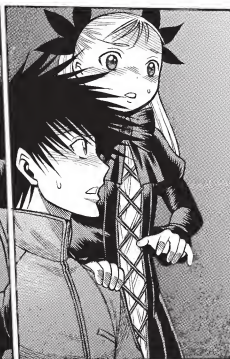


IT IS  
ALMOST  
CERTAIN  
THAT SHE  
WOULD  
EXPERIENCE  
SUDDEN,  
EXTREME  
BLOOD LOSS.  
IT WOULD  
DAMAGE  
HER BRAIN  
BEYOND  
REPAIR.



YOU SEE,  
THE  
SWELLING  
ISN'T THE  
ONLY  
PROBLEM.

THE  
MENINGEAL  
VEINS THAT  
RUN THROUGH  
HER DURA  
MATER--THE  
MEMBRANE  
AROUND HER  
BRAIN--WERE  
ALSO SEVERELY  
DAMAGED BY  
THE BLOW.





TATIANNA  
WAS  
THE ONE  
WHO DID  
THIS...?



NEITHER THE  
SECURITY  
CAMERAS NOR  
THE SECURITY  
PERSONNEL  
ON-SITE--  
INCLUDING AKIRA  
HIMSELF--  
NOTICED ANY  
SIGN OF  
INTRUDERS  
FROM THE  
OUTSIDE.

THOSE FACTORS,  
COUPLED WITH  
THE EVIDENCE  
PROVIDED BY  
THE STATE OF  
THE DESTRUCTION  
AT THE SCENE OF  
THE ATTACK,  
INDICATE  
TATIANNA AS THE  
MOST LIKELY  
PERPETRATOR.



CURRENTLY, I  
HAVE DIRECTED  
BOTH BEOWULF  
AND THE VGS  
TO PUT THEIR  
FULL ATTENTION  
TOWARDS  
LOCATING AND  
APPREHENDING  
TATIANNA  
HUMORESQUE.

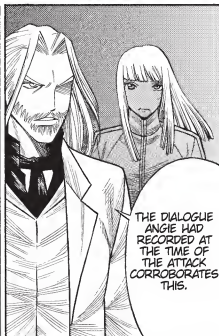


WHY...  
YOU...



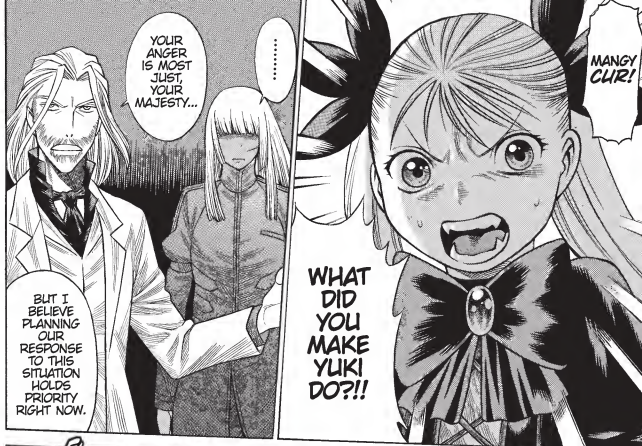
RECORDED  
DIALOGUE  
...?

WHY  
DOES  
SUCH A  
THING  
EVEN  
EXIST  
?!?

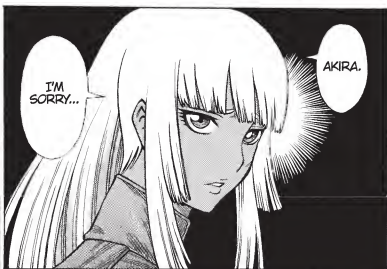
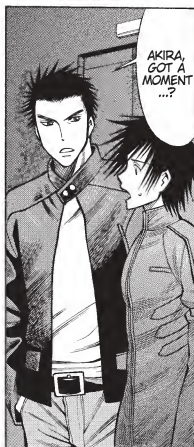
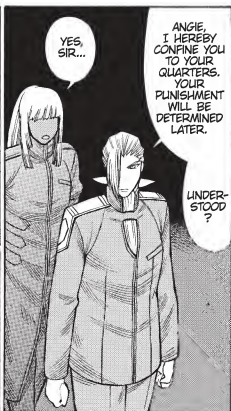
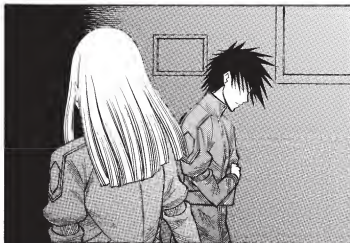


THE DIALOGUE  
ANGIE HAD  
RECORDED AT  
THE TIME OF  
THE ATTACK  
CORROBORATES  
THIS.











SEEN  
THIS  
BEFORE?

THERE WAS  
A WRECK RIGHT  
OUTSIDE OF  
THE JOINT  
DISTRICT.  
A SCOOTER  
WENT UP IN  
FLAMES,  
APPARENTLY.

I JUST  
GOT A  
CALL  
FROM THE  
TOKYO  
PRECINCT.



RYOHEI'S  
...

THAT'S...



LISTEN.  
THE  
DRIVER  
DIED.  
I'M  
SORRY.

I  
KNOW  
THIS IS  
BAD  
TIMING,  
BUT  
TAKE A  
DEEP  
BREATH.

WHAT  
HAPPENED?!  
IS RYOHEI  
OKAY?!

DAMN...



THE PRECINCT  
HAS ALREADY  
OPENED AN  
INVESTIGATION  
INTO IT,  
LOOKING AT IT  
FROM BOTH  
AN ACCIDENT  
ANGLE AND AS  
DELIBERATE  
SABOTAGE.

THERE'S  
EVIDENCE  
THAT AN  
ACCELERANT  
WAS USED  
IN THE  
FIRE.

ONLY A  
SMALL PART  
OF THE  
VICTIM'S  
CORPSE  
REMAINED.



AGAIN...  
I-IT'S ALL  
STARTING  
AGAIN...

THE  
PEOPLE  
AROUND  
ME...

THEY'RE  
ALL...

AKIRA?!

I...  
I...

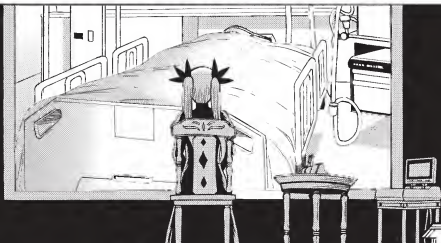
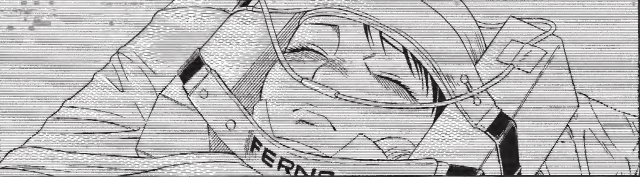
AKIRA!

AKIRA!!

AAAAHHHH!!!

FERNO





AND  
THERE  
YOU  
ARE...

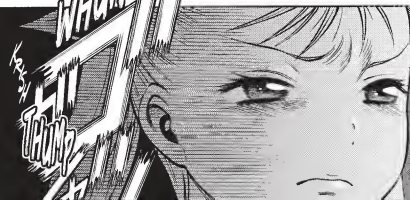


YOU SEE,  
THIS IS A  
PLACE THAT  
DEVOURS  
THE WEAK,  
DOWN TO  
THE VERY  
MARROW  
OF THEIR  
BONES.

SETTING  
FOOT  
INTO THIS  
WORLD IS  
THE LAST,  
BIGGEST  
MISTAKE  
YOU WILL  
EVER  
MAKE.



STANDING  
RIGHT  
IN THE  
MIDDLE  
OF IT.



NO...  
LING!



WHA  
?!





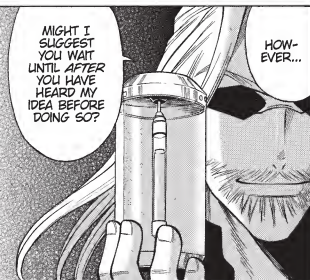


THEN  
THAT IS  
ALL  
WELL  
AND  
GOOD.

IF THAT  
IS YOUR  
WISH,  
YOUR  
MAJESTY  
...



ALPHONSE.



MIGHT I  
SUGGEST  
YOU WAIT  
UNTIL AFTER  
YOU HAVE  
HEARD MY  
IDEA BEFORE  
DOING SO?

HOW-  
EVER...



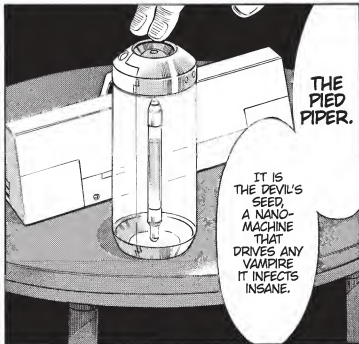
HIME-  
SAMA...

SOME-  
TIMES...

I WISH  
I COULD  
TEAR  
MYSELF  
TO  
PIECES!



AND WE  
SHALL  
INJECT  
YOUR  
HONORED  
SCHOOL  
FRIEND  
WITH IT.



THE  
PIED  
PIPER.

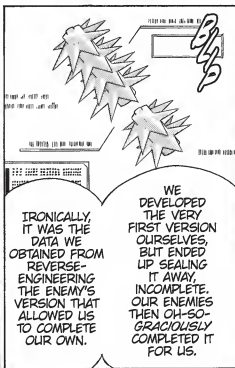
IT IS  
THE DEVIL'S  
SEED,  
A NANO-  
MACHINE  
THAT  
DRIVES ANY  
VAMPIRE  
IT INFECTS  
INSANE.



WHAT  
?!

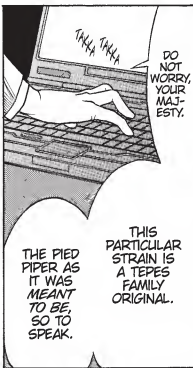


BUT WHAT  
WOULD  
BE THE  
POINT OF  
INFECTING  
YUKI  
WITH IT?



IRONICALLY,  
IT WAS THE  
DATA WE  
OBTAINED FROM  
REVERSE-  
ENGINEERING  
THE ENEMY'S  
VERSION THAT  
ALLOWED US  
TO COMPLETE  
OUR OWN.

WE  
DEVELOPED  
THE VERY  
FIRST VERSION  
OURSELVES,  
BUT ENDED  
UP SEALING  
IT AWAY,  
INCOMPLETE.  
OUR ENEMIES  
THEN OH-SO-  
GRACIOUSLY  
COMPLETED IT  
FOR US.



DO  
NOT  
WORRY,  
YOUR  
MAJ-  
ESTY.

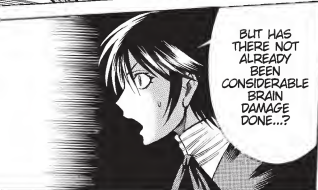
THE PIED  
PIPER AS  
IT WAS  
MEANT  
TO BE,  
SO TO  
SPEAK.

THIS  
PARTICULAR  
STRAIN IS  
A TEPE'S  
FAMILY  
ORIGINAL.

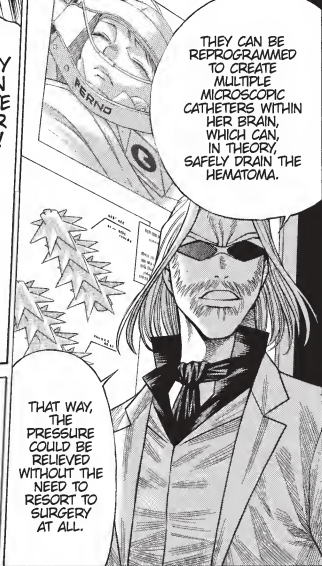


THEY CAN  
SAVE  
HER  
...?!  
...

USING  
THEM  
WILL  
HEAL  
YUKI?!  
...



BUT HAS  
THERE NOT  
ALREADY  
BEEN  
CONSIDERABLE  
BRAIN  
DAMAGE  
DONE...?  
...

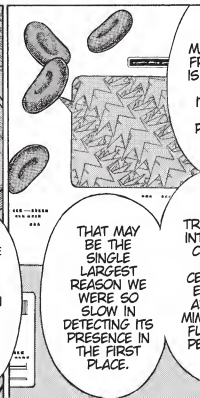


THEY CAN BE  
REPROGRAMMED  
TO CREATE  
MULTIPLE  
MICROSCOPIC  
CATHETERS WITHIN  
HER BRAIN,  
WHICH CAN,  
IN THEORY,  
SAFELY DRAIN THE  
HEMATOMA.

THAT WAY,  
THE  
PRESSURE  
COULD BE  
RELIEVED  
WITHOUT THE  
NEED TO  
RESORT TO  
SURGERY  
AT ALL.



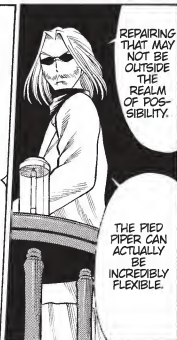
BUT IN  
THIS CASE,  
IT GIVES US THE  
PERFECT TOOL.  
WE CAN  
PROGRAM IT TO  
REPAIR OR EVEN  
REPLACE THE  
DAMAGED  
PORTIONS OF  
YOUR FRIEND'S  
BRAIN.



THAT MAY  
BE THE  
SINGLE  
LARGEST  
REASON WE  
WERE SO  
SLOW IN  
DETECTING ITS  
PRESENCE IN  
THE FIRST  
PLACE.

WHAT  
MAKES IT SO  
FRIGHTENING  
IS ITS ABILITY  
TO MIMIC  
ITS HOST'S  
ORIGINAL  
PARTS AND  
ORGANS.

IT CAN  
TRANSFORM  
INTO BLOOD  
CELLS OR  
NERVE  
CELLS, FOR  
EXAMPLE,  
AND THEN  
MIMIC THOSE  
FUNCTIONS  
PERFECTLY.



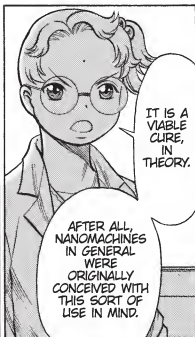
REPAIRING  
THAT MAY  
NOT BE  
OUTSIDE  
THE  
REALM OF  
POS-  
SIBILITY.

THE PIED  
PIPER CAN  
ACTUALLY  
BE  
INCREDIBLY  
FLEXIBLE.





SHE...  
SHE  
CAN BE  
SAVED  
...!



IT IS A  
VIABLE  
CURE,  
IN  
THEORY.

AFTER ALL,  
NANOMACHINES  
IN GENERAL  
WERE  
ORIGINALLY  
CONCEIVED WITH  
THIS SORT OF  
USE IN MIND.



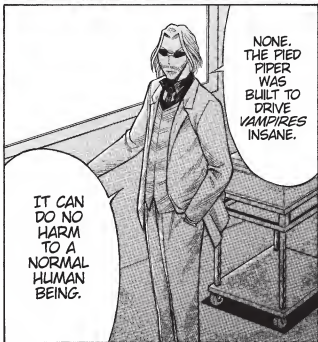
DOCTOR  
?



THOUGH  
IF HER  
MAJESTY  
WERE TO  
WISH TO  
TURN HER  
INTO A  
VAMPIRE  
LATER, THEN  
THINGS MAY  
BECOME...  
DIFFICULT.



WHAT  
POSSIBLE  
DAMAGING  
SIDE  
EFFECTS  
COULD IT  
HAVE?



NONE.  
THE PIED  
PIPER  
WAS  
BUILT TO  
DRIVE  
VAMPIRES  
INSANE.

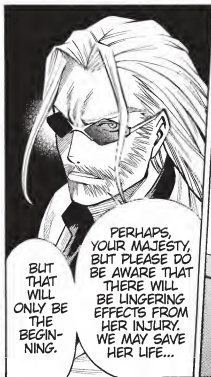
IT CAN  
DO NO  
HARM  
TO A  
NORMAL  
HUMAN  
BEING.





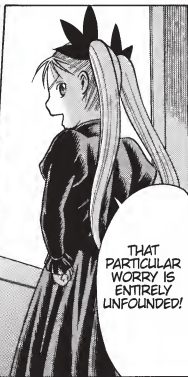
THAT  
DOES  
NOT  
MATTER!

AS  
LONG  
AS  
SHE  
IS  
ALIVE...

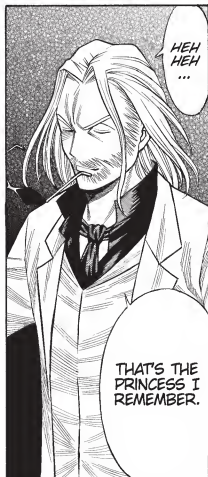


BUT  
THAT  
WILL  
ONLY  
BE  
THE  
BEGIN-  
NING.

PERHAPS,  
YOUR MAJESTY,  
BUT PLEASE DO  
BE AWARE THAT  
THERE WILL  
BE LINGERING  
EFFECTS FROM  
HER INJURY.  
WE MAY SAVE  
HER LIFE...



THAT  
PARTICULAR  
WORRY IS  
ENTIRELY  
UNFOUNDED!



HEH  
HEH  
...

THAT'S THE  
PRINCESS I  
REMEMBER.



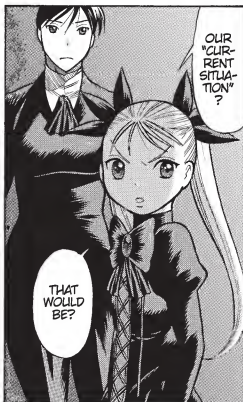
I CAN USE  
THE FULL  
EXTENT OF  
MY POWER TO  
HEAL HER.  
I WILL  
BRING THE  
OLD YUKI  
BACK...  
I SWEAR  
IT!



PRECISELY  
BECAUSE  
OF YOUR  
HONORED  
FRIEND'S  
CONDITION,  
WE HAVE  
A UNIQUE  
OPPORTUNITY  
TO SET  
A VERY  
SUBTLE  
TRAP.

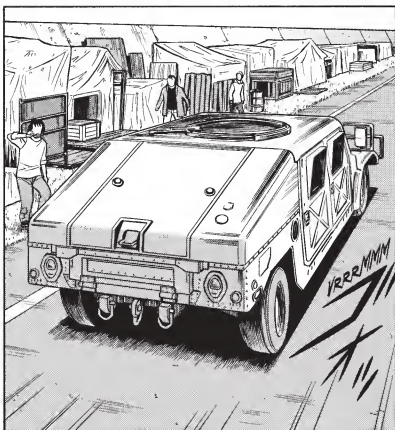
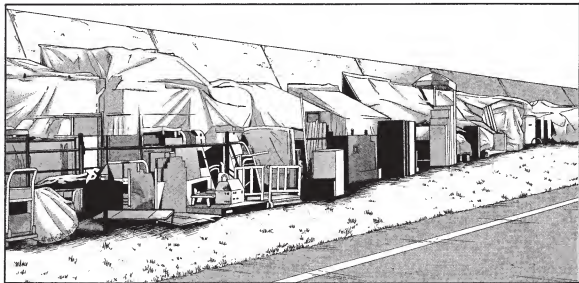


YOUR  
MAJESTY,  
CONSIDERING  
OUR CURRENT  
SITUATION,  
I HUMBLY  
REQUEST  
PERMISSION  
TO SUGGEST  
A PLAN OF  
ACTION.

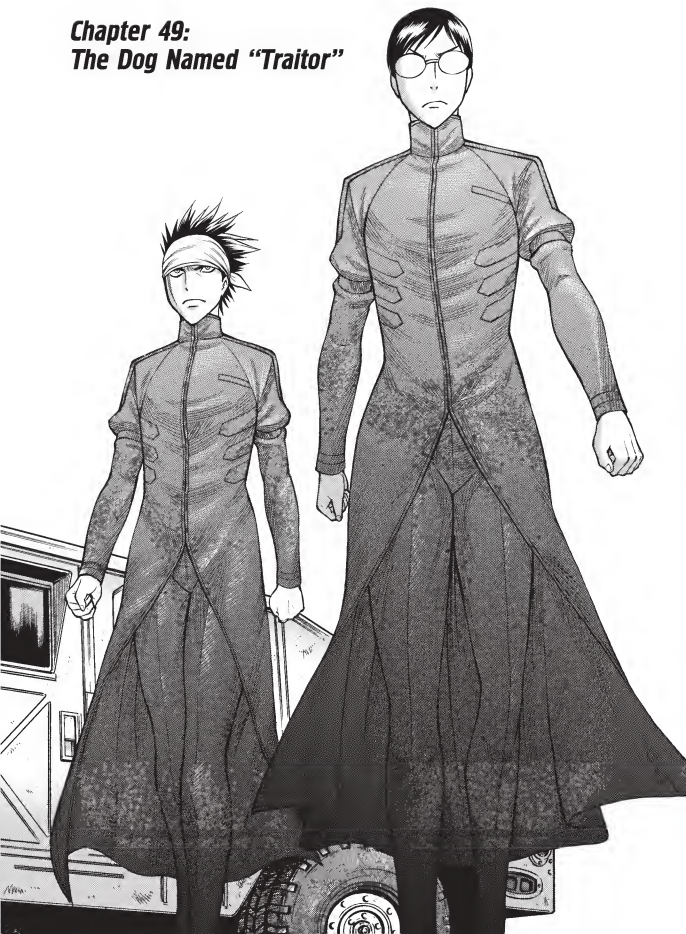


THAT  
WOULD  
BE?

OUR  
"CUR-  
RENT  
SITUA-  
TION"?  
?



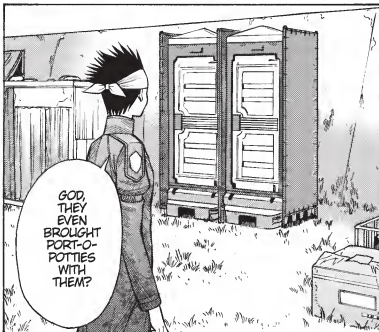
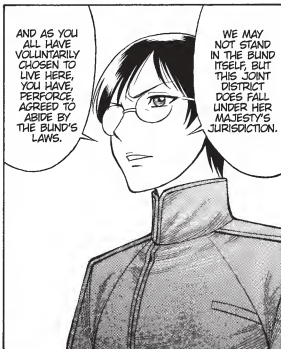
**Chapter 49:**  
**The Dog Named "Traitor"**

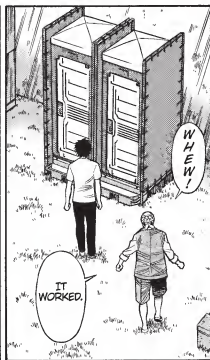
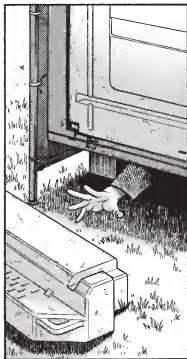
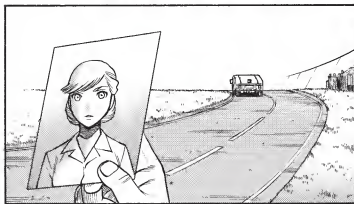
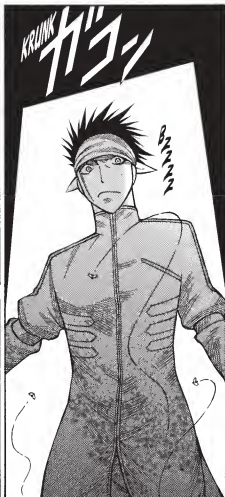


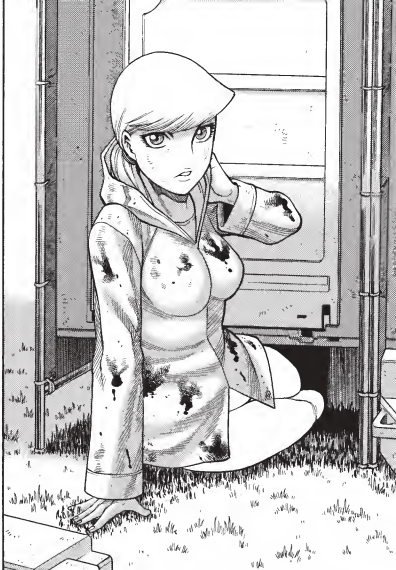


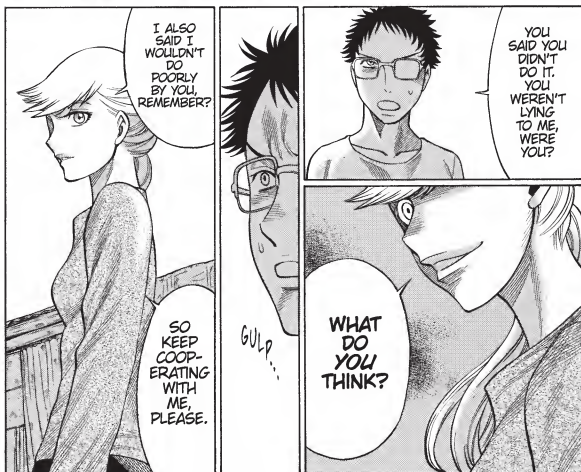
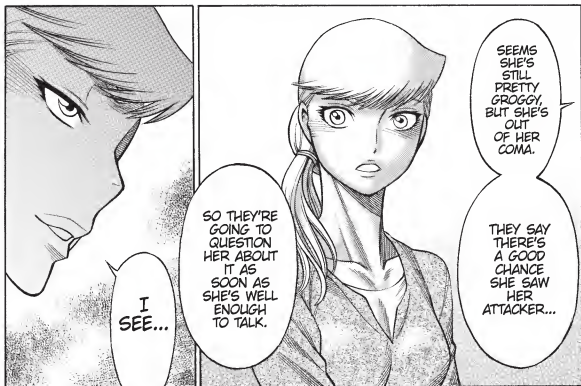






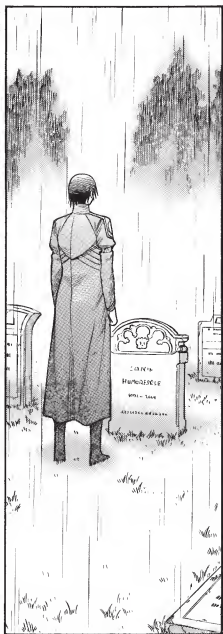
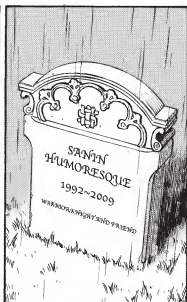
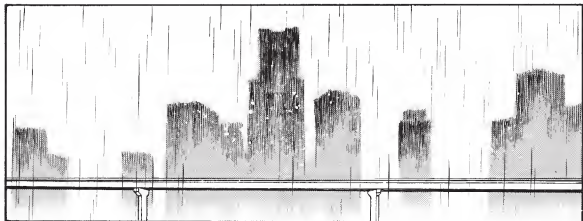


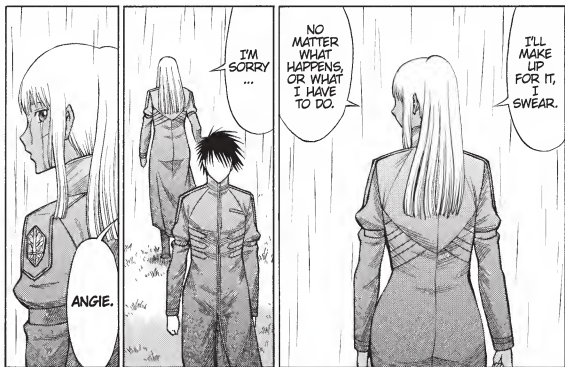
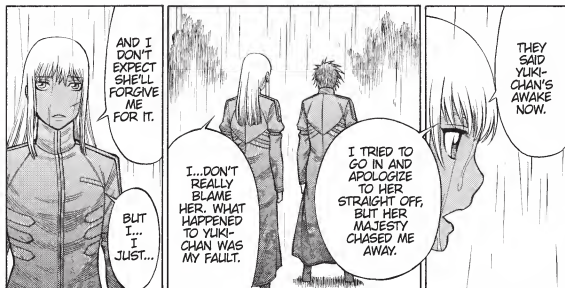






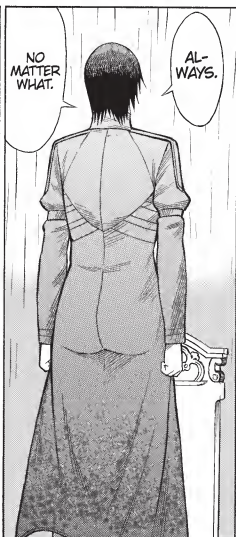


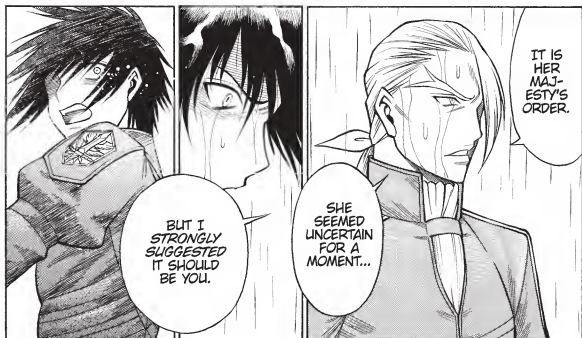
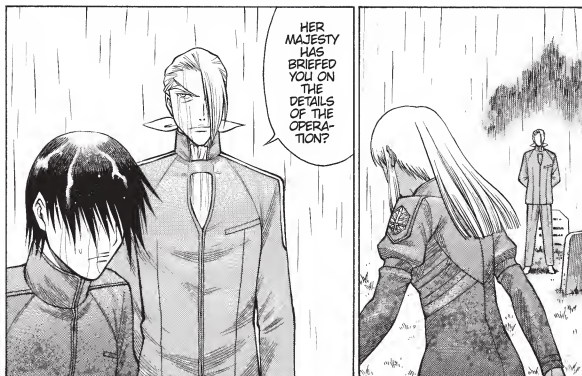






YOU  
STILL  
THINK OF  
ME AS A  
FRIEND?









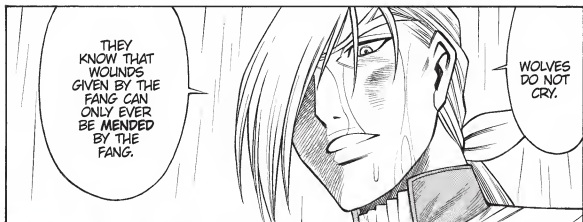
BUT  
YOU  
ARE  
NO  
RABBIT.

YOU  
ARE  
A  
WOLF.

IF YOU  
WERE A  
RABBIT.

DO YOU  
GRIEVE  
FOR THE  
WOUNDS  
YOU BEAR?  
IT WOULD  
NOT BE  
A BAD  
THING.

GIVEN  
WHAT YOU  
HAVE  
ENDURED,  
NO ONE  
WOULD  
BLAME YOU  
FOR CRYING  
YOUR EYES  
RED...



THEY  
KNOW THAT  
WOUNDS  
GIVEN BY THE  
FANG CAN  
ONLY EVER  
BE MENDED  
BY THE  
FANG.

WOLVES  
DO NOT  
CRY.



WITHOUT  
INTERVEN-  
TION  
FROM ME,  
AND ASK  
YOUR  
HEART,  
IS *THIS*  
WHAT YOU  
WANT?

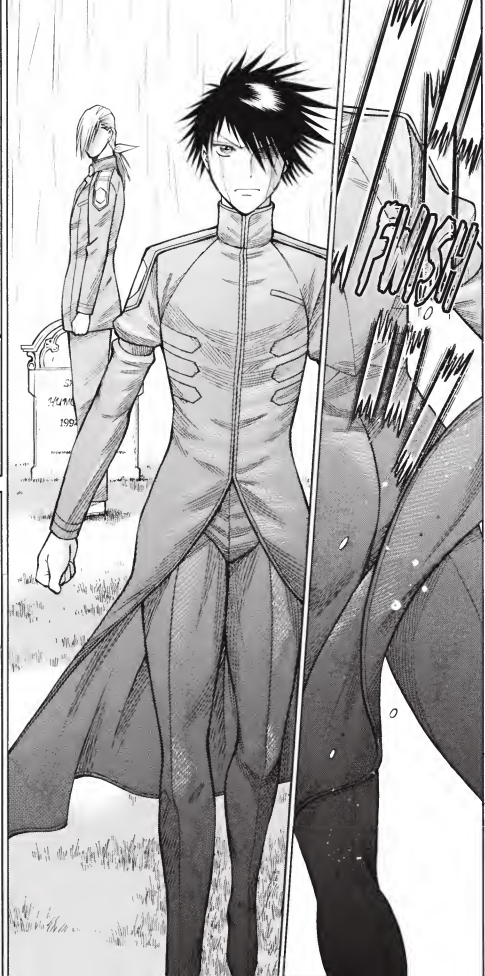
LOOK  
BACK ON  
THIS LIFE  
THAT YOU  
HAVE  
CHOSEN  
FOR  
YOURSELF  
...

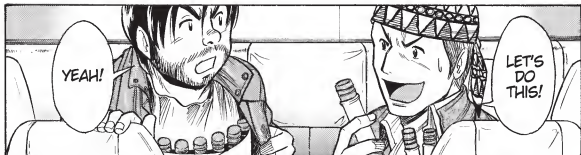
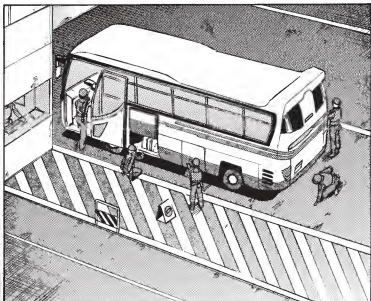
I HAVE NO  
DOUBT THAT  
HER MAJESTY  
WILL KEEP  
YOU CLOSE  
AND THINK  
OF YOU  
DEARLY, EVEN  
SHOULD  
YOU BE A  
RABBIT.

BUT  
WOULD  
THAT  
SATISFY  
YOU?

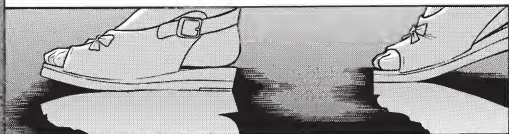
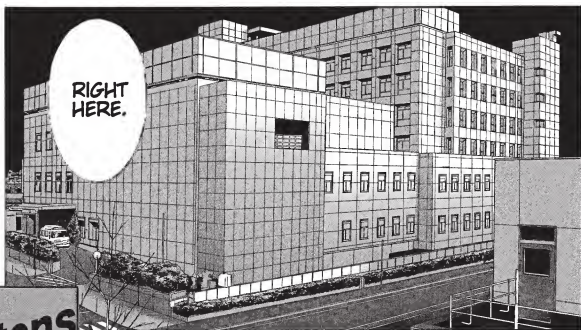


I'VE  
BECOME  
TALKATIVE  
IN MY  
OLD  
AGE...



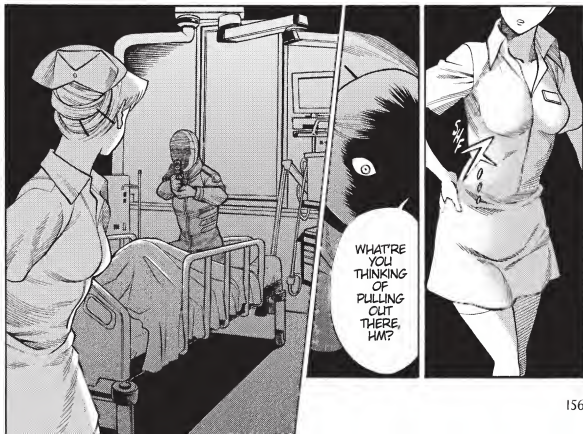






Intens  
Care  
Unit





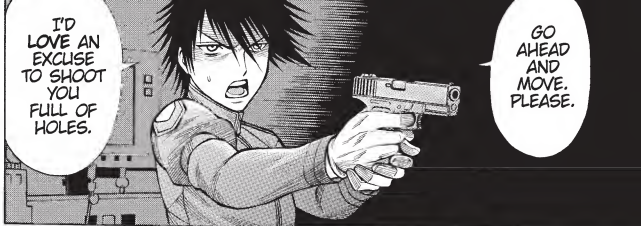
WHAT'RE  
YOU  
THINKING  
OF  
PULLING  
OUT  
THERE,  
HM?





HI,  
TATIANNA.  
GLAD  
YOU  
COULD  
COME.





I'D  
LOVE AN  
EXCUSE  
TO SHOOT  
YOU  
FULL OF  
HOLES.

GO  
AHEAD  
AND  
MOVE.  
PLEASE.



WHERE  
IS  
SHE?



I'VE  
NEVER  
KILLED  
ANYONE  
OUT OF  
HATE  
BEFORE,  
BUT  
THERE'S  
A FIRST  
TIME FOR  
EVERY-  
THING.

HOW  
DARE  
YOU  
DO  
THAT  
TO  
YUKI?!



AND  
LOOK,  
HERE  
YOU ARE.  
YOU JUST  
PROVED  
YOU DID  
IT ALL BY  
YOURSELF  
!!

HOW  
DO YOU  
LIKE THIS  
LITTLE  
TRAP THAT  
ALPHONSE  
COOKED  
UP?

HE FIGURED  
THAT IF WE  
LET IT "LEAK"  
THAT YUKI  
RECOVERED  
AND COULD  
IDENTIFY HER  
ATTACKER,  
THE PERP  
WOULD COME  
HERE TO  
SHUT HER UP  
BEFORE HE  
COULD BE  
FINGERED.



STILL IN  
A COMA  
OFF IN  
ANOTHER  
ROOM.

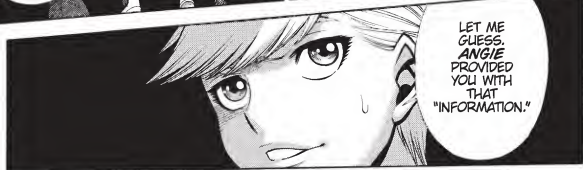




ACCORDINGLY,  
WE MUST  
RE-INVESTIGATE  
YOUR MOTIVES--  
NOT JUST IN  
REGARDS TO THIS  
INCIDENT, BUT TO  
ALL OF YOUR  
ACTIONS THAT LED  
TO YOUR ARRIVAL  
IN THE BUND.

TATIANNA  
HUMORESQUE.  
WE HAVE RECEIVED  
INFORMATION  
INDICATING THAT  
YOU WERE LIKELY  
IN COLLUSION WITH  
EITHER LI OR  
VANOVIC,  
IF NOT BOTH,  
DURING YOUR  
"ESCAPE" FROM  
RUSSIA TO CHINA.

AKIRA,  
DO NOT  
FIRE.  
WE HAVE  
A LOT OF  
QUESTIONS  
WE NEED  
TO ASK  
HER.

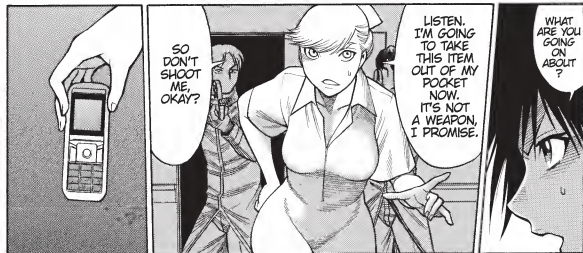


LET ME  
GUESS.  
ANGIE  
PROVIDED  
YOU WITH  
THAT  
"INFORMATION."



HE TRULY IS  
BOUND AND  
DETERMINED TO  
SEE ME KILLED,  
ISN'T HE?

THAT  
CHILD.



SO  
DON'T  
SHOOT  
ME,  
OKAY?

LISTEN.  
I'M GOING  
TO TAKE  
THIS ITEM  
OUT OF MY  
POCKET  
NOW.  
IT'S NOT  
A WEAPON,  
I PROMISE.

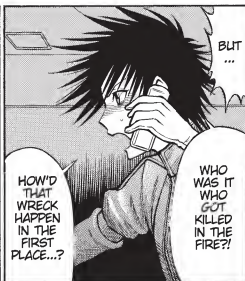
WHAT  
ARE YOU  
GOING  
ON  
ABOUT  
?







ASK HIM.  
I'M  
CERTAIN  
HE HAS  
A VERY  
INTERESTING  
STORY  
FOR YOU.



HOW'D  
THAT  
WRECK  
HAPPEN  
IN THE  
FIRST  
PLACE...?

BUT  
...  
  
WHO  
WAS IT  
WHO  
GOT  
KILLED  
IN THE  
FIRE?!



YOU'RE  
OKAY!

OH...  
THANK  
GOD!



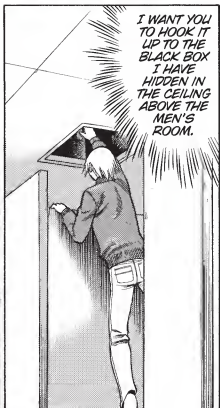
HE WANTED  
TO KNOW  
THE TRUTH  
ABOUT HER  
AND WHY  
SHE WAS  
HERE.

AKIRA...  
YUKI AND I  
WERE AT THE  
SAFE HOUSE  
THAT DAY  
BECAUSE ANGIE  
ASKED US, NOT  
HER MAJESTY.

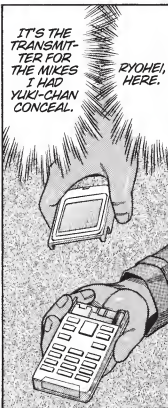


AND  
NEVER  
LET THAT  
BAG OUT  
OF YOUR  
SIGHT.  
KEEP IT  
ON YOU  
AT ALL  
TIMES.

KEEP  
ALL THE  
TOOLS  
FOR IT  
IN THIS  
BAG.

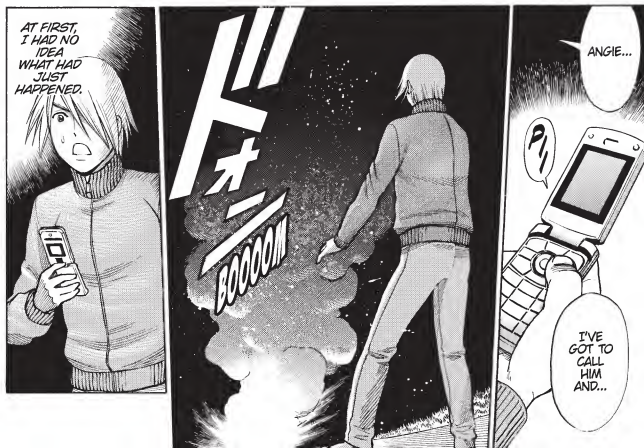
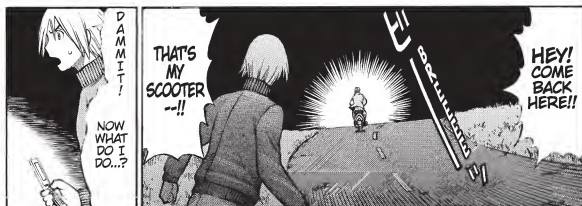
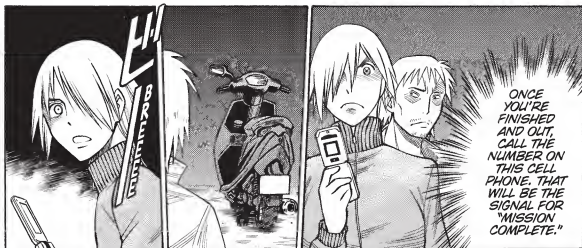


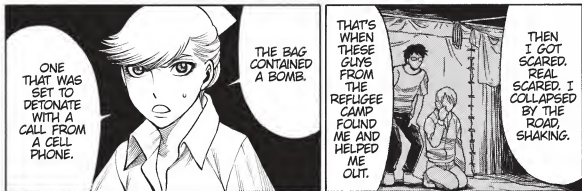
I WANT YOU  
TO HOOK IT  
UP TO THE  
BLACK BOX  
I HAVE  
HIDDEN IN  
THE CEILING  
ABOVE THE  
MEN'S  
ROOM.



IT'S THE  
TRANSMIT-  
TER FOR  
THE MIKES  
I HAD  
YUKI-CHAN  
CONCEAL.

RYOHEI,  
HERE.





ONE THAT WAS SET TO DETONATE WITH A CALL FROM A CELL PHONE.

THE BAG CONTAINED A BOMB.

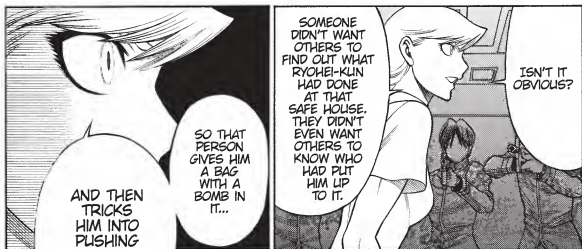
THAT'S WHEN THESE GLYS FROM THE REFUGEE CAMP FOUND ME AND HELPED ME OUT.

THEN I GOT SCARED. REAL SCARED. I COLLAPSED BY THE ROAD, SHAKING.



BUT WHY?!

SO SOMEONE WAS TRYING TO KILL RYOHEI?



AND THEN TRICKS HIM INTO PUSHING THE SWITCH HIMSELF!!

SO THAT PERSON GIVES HIM A BAG WITH A BOMB IN IT...

SOMEONE DIDN'T WANT OTHERS TO FIND OUT WHAT RYOHEI-KLIN HAD DONE AT THAT SAFE HOUSE. THEY DIDN'T EVEN WANT OTHERS TO KNOW WHO HAD PUT HIM UP TO IT.

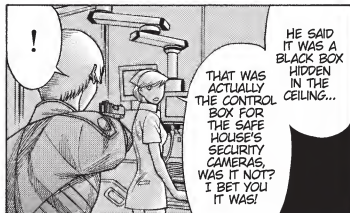
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?



HOLD IT...



WAIT ONE DAMN MINUTE HERE!!



!

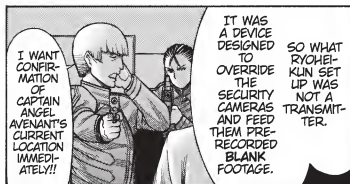
THAT WAS ACTUALLY THE CONTROL BOX FOR THE SAFE HOUSE'S SECURITY CAMERAS, WAS IT NOT? I BET YOU IT WAS!

HE SAID IT WAS A BLACK BOX HIDDEN IN THE CEILING...



THINK ABOUT IT! DID THE INVESTIGATORS FIND THE DEVICE RYOHEI-KUN SET UP WHEN THEY SEARCHED THE SAFE HOUSE AFTER THE ATTACK?

I DOUBT THEY DID. THAT MEANS SOMEONE REMOVED IT. SOMEONE WHO COULD ENTER AND LEAVE THE SCENE WITHOUT BEING QUESTIONED.



I WANT CONFIRMATION OF CAPTAIN ANGEL AVENANT'S CURRENT LOCATION IMMEDIATELY!!

IT WAS A DEVICE DESIGNED TO OVERRIDE THE SECURITY CAMERAS AND FEED THEM PRE-RECORDED BLANK FOOTAGE.

SO WHAT RYOHEI-KUN SET UP WAS NOT A TRANSMITTER.



COMPLETE ERASURE OF ALL SENSE OR SIGN OF PRESENCE.

IT'S SOMETHING ANGIE'S ALWAYS BEEN INFURIATINGLY GOOD AT.



THAT'S WHY THE CAMERAS DIDN'T SHOW WHO DID IT. THEY WEREN'T RECORDING.

THE ONLY NECESSARY THING LEFT WAS A PERSON EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD AT STEALTH...

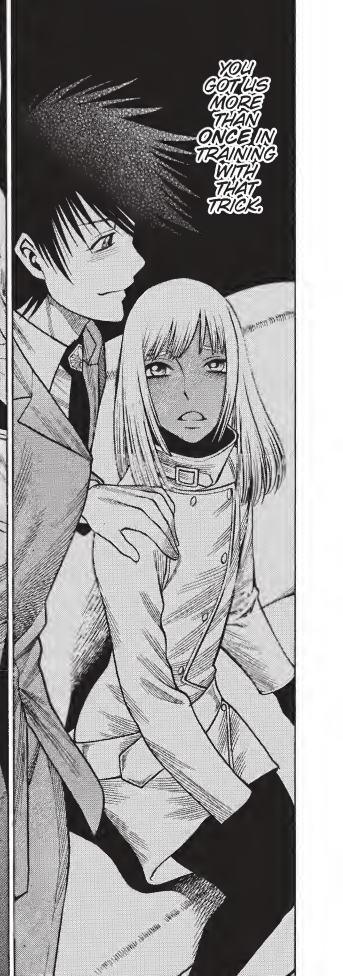




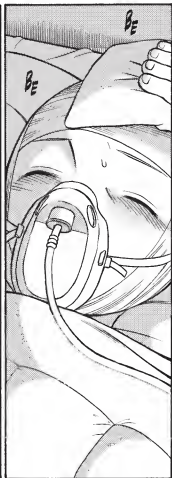
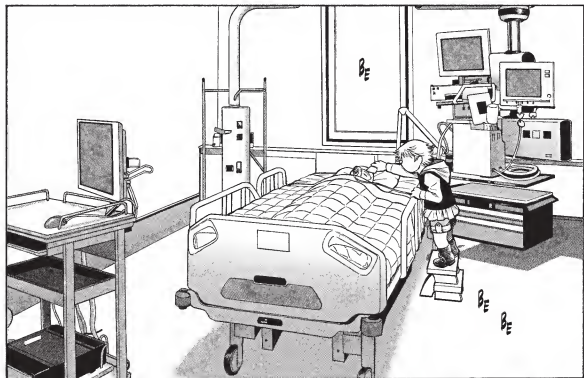
AKIRA  
...

ANGIE  
IS  
GONE.

HIS  
QUARTERS  
HAVE BEEN  
CLEANED OUT.  
NO ONE  
NOTICED  
WHEN OR  
HOW  
HE LEFT.



*YOU  
GOT US  
MORE  
THAN  
ONCE IN  
TRAINING  
WITH  
THAT  
TRICK.*





YUKIHI...  
WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING  
HERE?



HIME-  
SAMA  
SAID SHE  
HAD TO  
LEAVE TO  
DO SOME  
WORK...

SO SHE  
ASKED ME  
TO LOOK  
AFTER  
YUKI-  
ONEE-  
CHAMA  
INSTEAD.

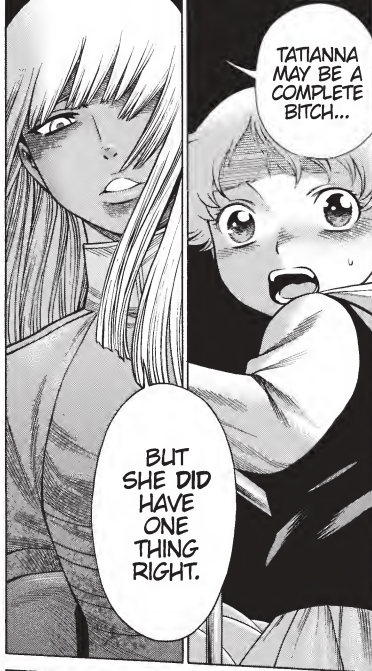


AHH...  
SO  
HIME-  
SAMA  
WILL BE  
COMING  
BACK  
SOON.

OH  
WELL..  
I  
GUESS...

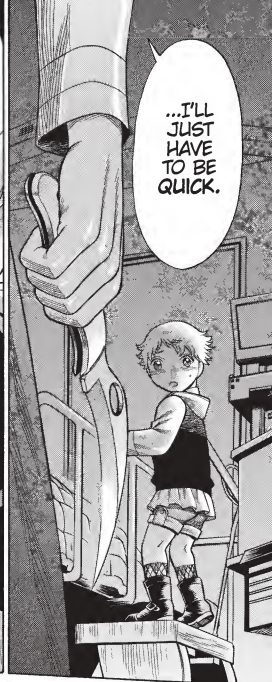
TOX





TATIANNA  
MAY BE A  
COMPLETE  
BITCH...

BUT  
SHE DID  
HAVE  
ONE  
THING  
RIGHT.



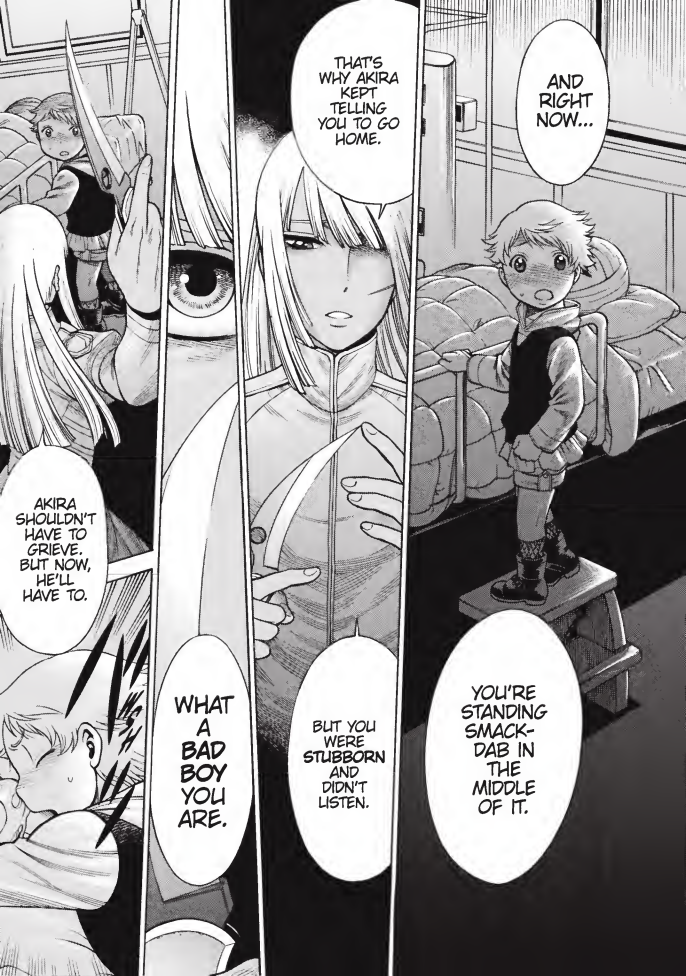
...I'LL  
JUST  
HAVE  
TO BE  
QUICK.



THIS IS A  
PLACE THAT  
WILL DEVOUR  
THE WEAK,  
DOWN TO THE  
VERY  
MARROW  
OF THEIR  
BONES...

SETTING  
FOOT  
INTO THIS  
WORLD WAS  
THE LAST  
MISTAKE YOU  
WILL EVER  
MAKE...





THAT'S  
WHY AKIRA  
KEPT  
TELLING  
YOU TO GO  
HOME.

AND  
RIGHT  
NOW...

AKIRA  
SHOULDN'T  
HAVE TO  
GRIEVE.  
BUT NOW,  
HE'LL  
HAVE TO.

WHAT  
A  
BAD  
BOY  
YOU  
ARE.

BUT YOU  
WERE  
STUBBORN  
AND  
DIDN'T  
LISTEN.

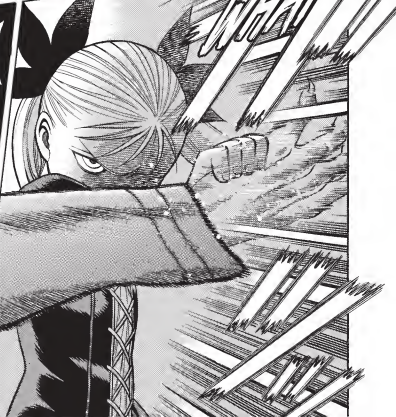
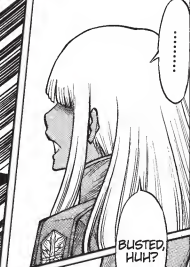
YOU'RE  
STANDING  
SMACK-  
DAB IN  
THE  
MIDDLE  
OF IT.



YOU  
CUR...

SO IT  
WAS  
YOU  
WHO  
DID  
THIS!

HOLD  
IT.

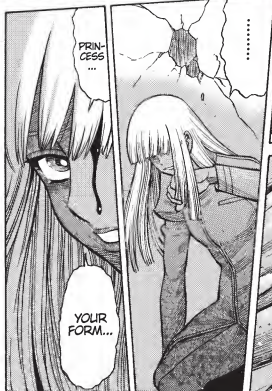






I SAID  
THAT IF  
I EVER  
DISCOVERED  
WHO  
HURT  
YUKI...

I'D RIP  
THEM  
APART  
MYSELF  
!!



PRINCESS  
...

YOUR  
FORM...

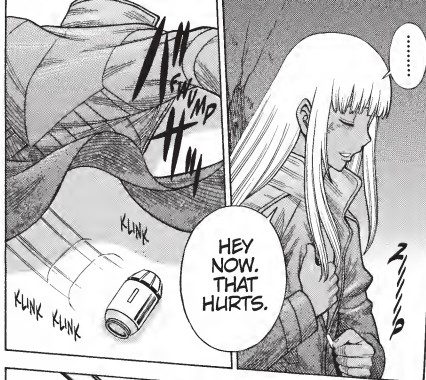




SO THAT'S  
THE SECRET...  
THE THREE  
LORDS SO  
DESPERATELY  
WANTED TO  
FIND OUT...

**YOUR  
TRUE  
FORM.**





HEY  
NOW.  
THAT  
HURTS.



YUHI  
!!

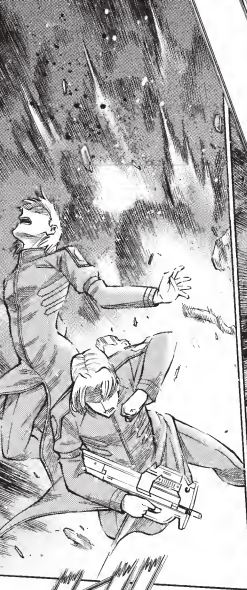


PIPIPIPI

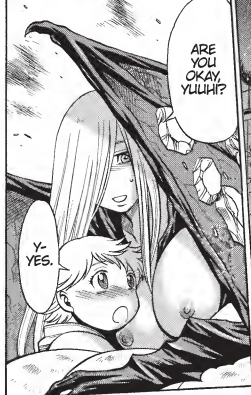


WSH



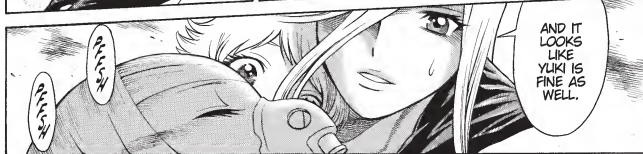
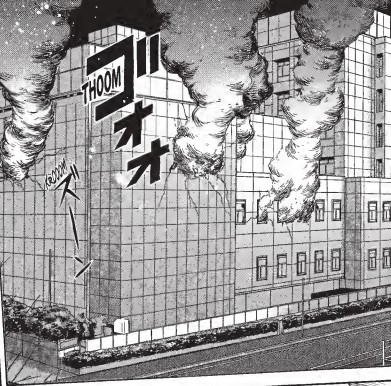




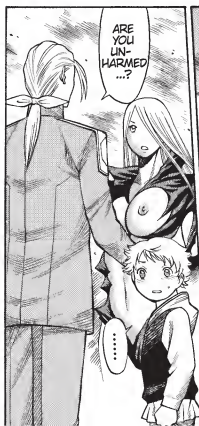


ARE YOU  
OKAY,  
YUKI?

Y-  
YES.



AND IT  
LOOKS  
LIKE  
YUKI IS  
FINE AS  
WELL.



ARE YOU  
UN-  
HARMED  
...?



YOUR  
MAJESTY!  
YOUR  
MAJESTY,  
PLEASE  
RESPOND!!

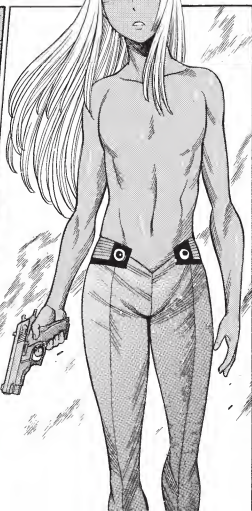
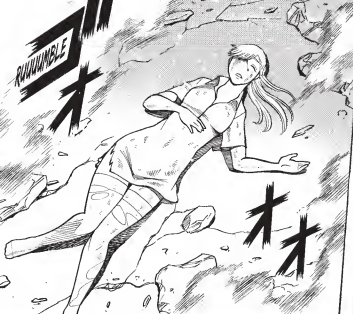
RIGHT  
HERE,  
WOLF-  
GANG.



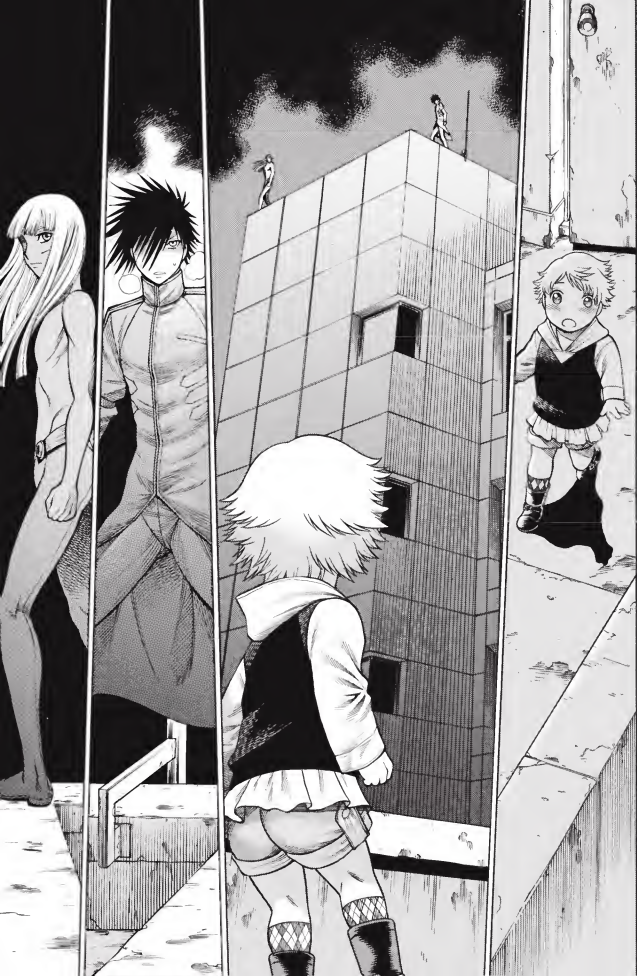
BUT  
HE  
ES-  
CAPED  
...

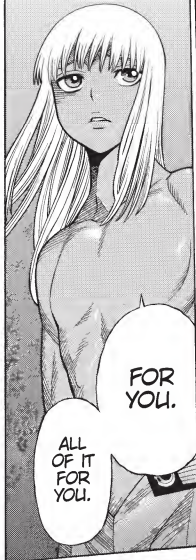
DAMMIT!  
HE  
TRICKED  
US  
AGAIN!











FOR  
YOU.

ALL  
OF IT  
FOR  
YOU.



THAT'S  
MORE  
THAN  
ENOUGH  
REASON  
FOR  
ME.

I  
NEVER  
NEEDED  
ANY-  
THING  
ELSE.



WHY,  
GOD-  
DAMMIT  
?!



ANGIE...  
WHY?

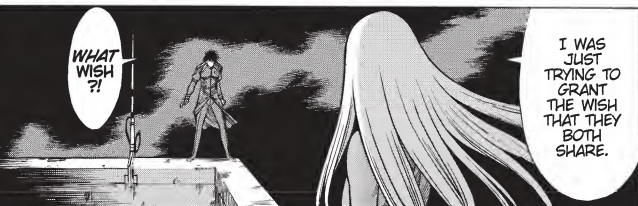






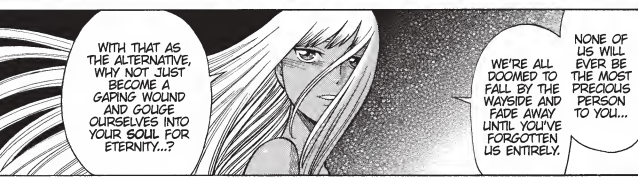
HOW  
THE  
HELL  
DO YOU  
FIGURE  
THAT'S  
"ALL  
FOR  
ME"?!

SO YOU  
USED  
RYOHEI  
AND YUKI,  
AND THEN  
TRIED TO  
KILL THEM  
BOTH...?



WHAT  
WISH  
?!

I WAS  
JUST  
TRYING TO  
GRANT  
THE WISH  
THAT THEY  
BOTH  
SHARE.



WITH THAT AS  
THE ALTERNATIVE,  
WHY NOT JUST  
BECOME A  
GAPING WOUND  
AND GOUGE  
OURSELVES INTO  
YOUR SOUL FOR  
ETERNITY...?

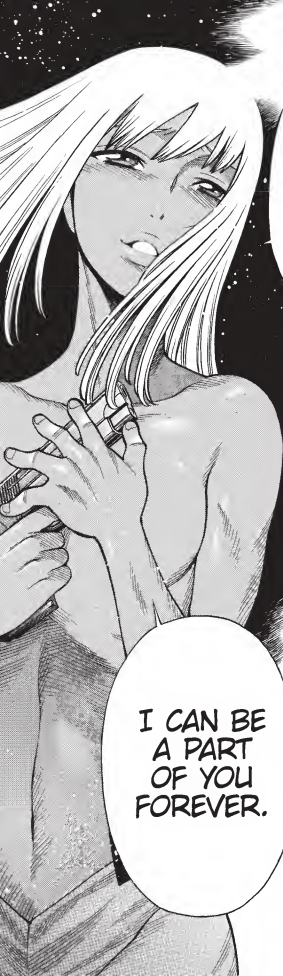
WE'RE ALL  
DOOMED TO  
FALL BY THE  
WAYSIDE AND  
FADE AWAY  
UNTIL YOU'VE  
FORGOTTEN  
US ENTIRELY.

NONE OF  
US WILL  
EVER BE  
THE MOST  
PRECIOUS  
PERSON  
TO YOU...



I WOULD  
RATHER  
YOU HATE  
ME THAN  
FORGET  
ME.

THE  
SAME  
GOES  
FOR  
ME.



THAT  
WAY...

I CAN BE  
A PART  
OF YOU  
FOREVER.

KILL  
ME LIKE  
YOU  
KILLED  
GRAHAM  
AND  
SANIN.

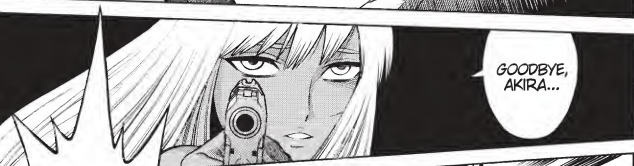
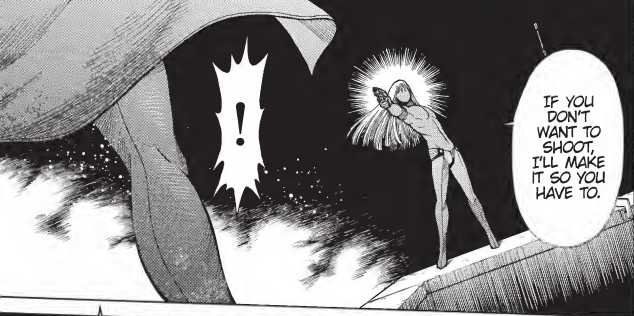
KILL  
ME...

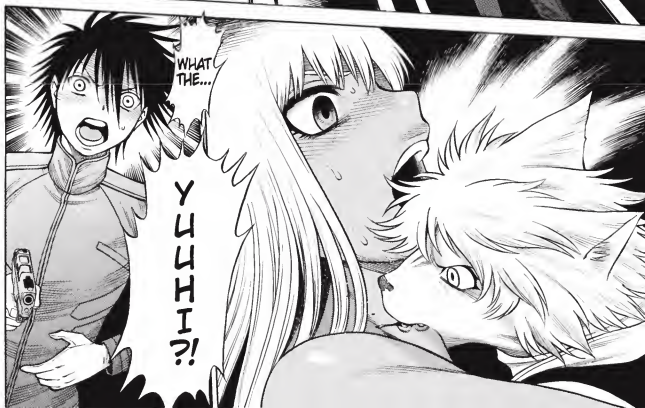
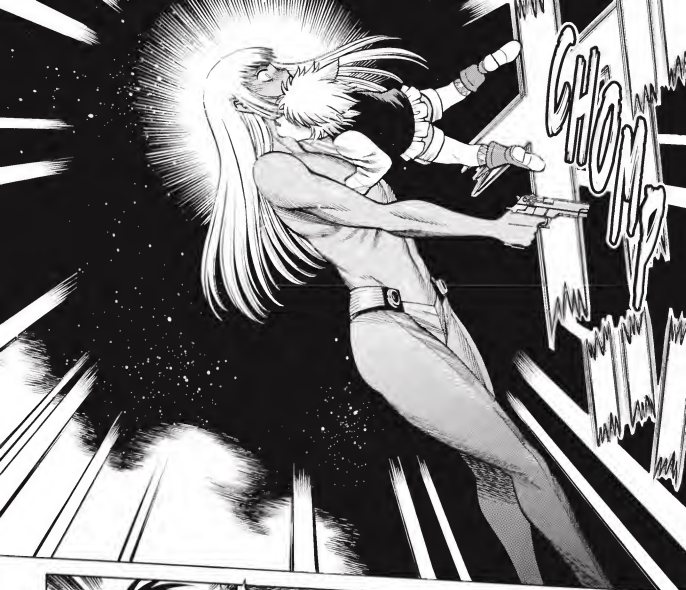
SO  
SHOOT  
ME,  
AKIRA.



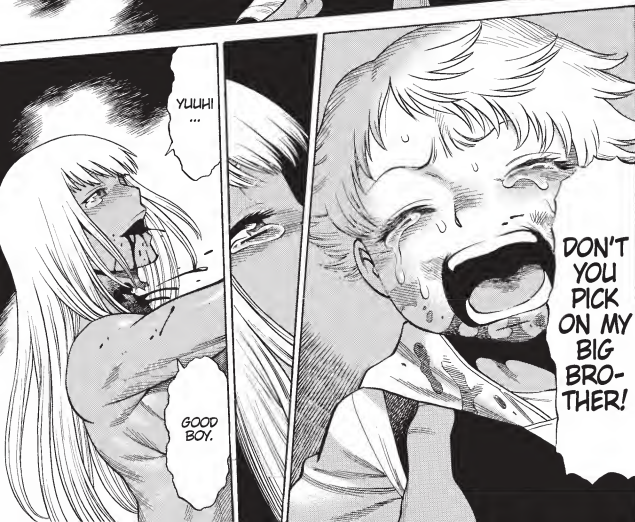
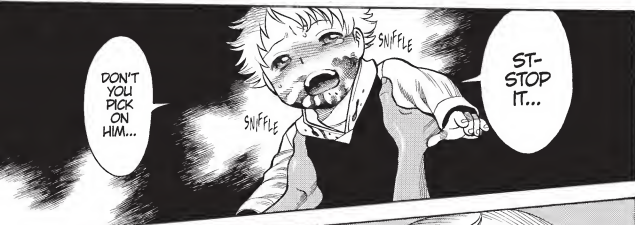
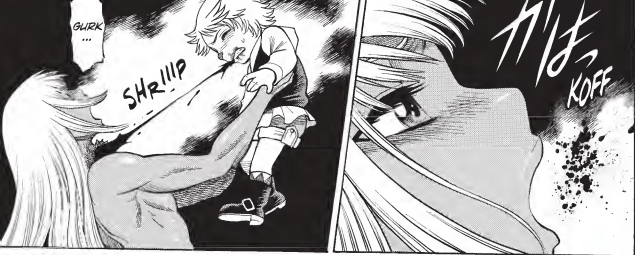
ANGIE!











YOUR  
BROTHER...

PROTECT...



SHOCK

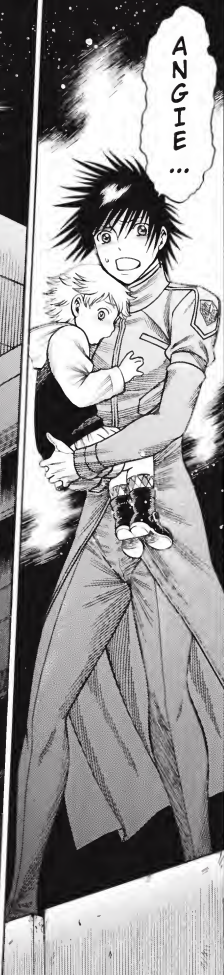


WSH

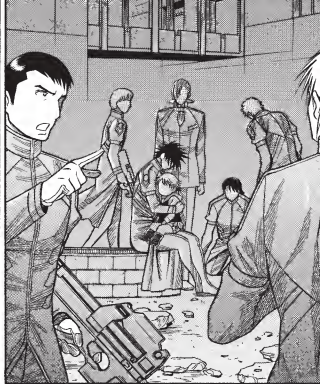




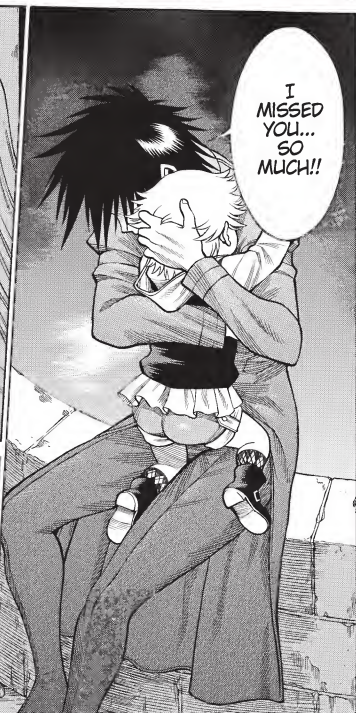
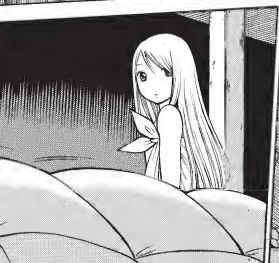
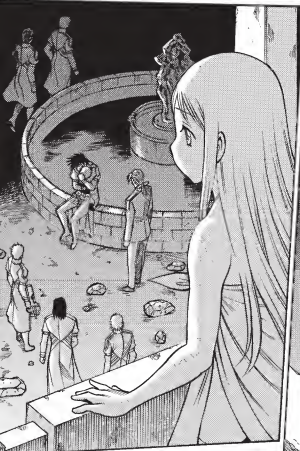
ANGIE!!!

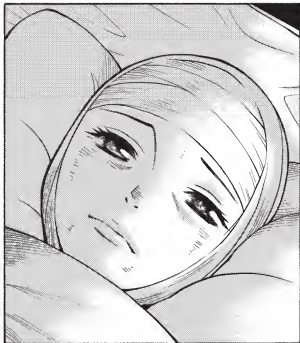


ANGIE ...









TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 9

## **STAFF**

### **JUGGERNAUT**

TAKASHI KOMATSU

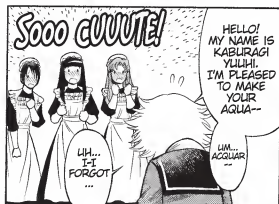
KENICHI NAKAMONO

RYUSUKE TAKIGUCHI

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

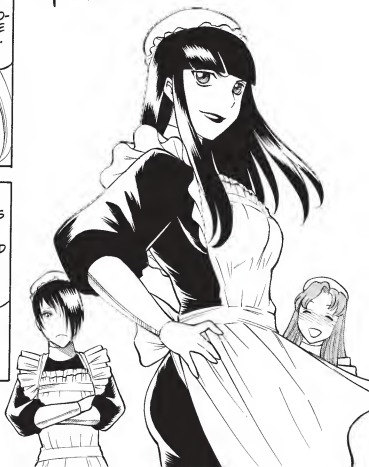
HIROSHI YAGUMO



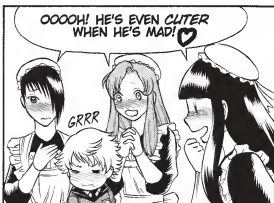
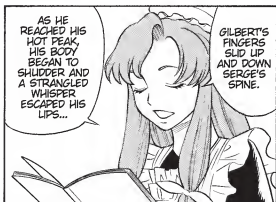
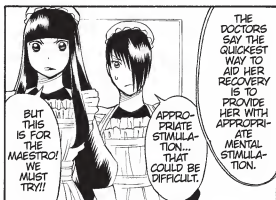
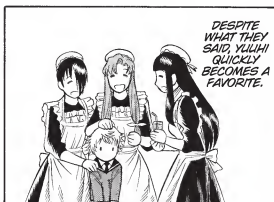
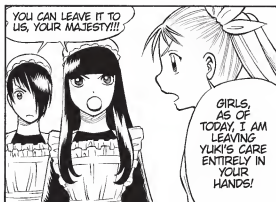


# DANCE with the VAMPIRE MAID

YOU'LL SEE US IN THE ANIME TOO!!







YEAH, THEY'RE HOPELESS...



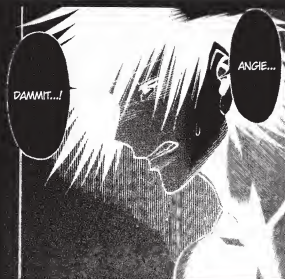


NEXT VOLUME PREVIEW

# 次卷預告



THE PAIN OF UNFORGETTABLE REGRETS,  
THE PEACE OF LONG-FORGOTTEN REST.  
WOUNDS THAT WILL NOT HEAL, DESPITE  
THE PASSAGE OF TIME. HAPPINESS TOO  
EPHEMERAL TO FORGET, NO MATTER HOW  
FLEETING THE MOMENT IN TIME. FATE ONCE  
AGAIN CALLS TO THE UNFORGIVEN ONES.



**COMING SOON!**



# 瞠目せよ!

WATCH FOR IT!



YOU'LL  
BECOME  
MUCH  
MORE  
BEAUTI-  
FUL.



I  
KNOW  
YOU  
WILL.

THE  
ENEMIES  
OF THE  
BUND  
FINALLY  
UNLEASH  
THEIR  
HATRED,  
STAGING A  
FULL

ASSAULT AND  
TRIGGERING  
ALL-OUT WAR  
ON THE  
ISLAND!  
WILL THE  
BUND BE  
ABLE TO  
SURVIVE?!

THE SHIP WANDERS THE  
OCEANS OF THE WORLD,  
HIDING MISERY AND  
DISASTER IN THE  
DEPTHS OF ITS HOLD.  
NOW IT COMES TO THE  
BUND, READY TO DRAG  
THAT ROSY PARADISE  
ONTO A VOYAGE INTO  
HELL--ONE THAT NO ONE  
WILL BE ABLE TO STOP.



EVEN THE  
WINTER  
TRAGEDY  
AKIRA MET  
WITH TWO  
YEARS  
AGO...

MAY COME  
TO SHOW  
US A  
COMPLETELY  
DIFFERENT  
PICTURE.

**DANCE IN THE VAMPIRE BUND VOLUME 9**

# HONORIFICS

To ensure that all character relationships appear as they were originally intended, all character names have been kept in their original Japanese name order with family name first and given name second. For copyright reasons, creator names appear in standard English name order.

In addition to preserving the original Japanese name order, Seven Seas is committed to ensuring that honorifics—polite speech that indicates a person's status or relationship towards another individual—are retained within this book. Politeness is an integral facet of Japanese culture, and we believe that maintaining honorifics in our translations helps bring out the same character nuances as seen in the original work.

The following are some of the more common honorifics you may come across while reading this and other books:

**-san** – The most common of all honorifics, it is an all-purpose suffix that can be used in any situation where politeness is expected. Generally seen as the equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs., etc.

**-sama** – This suffix is one level higher than “-san” and is used to confer great respect upon an individual.

**-kun** – This suffix is commonly used at the end of boys' names to express either familiarity or endearment. It can also be used when addressing someone younger than oneself or of a lower status.

**-chan** – Another common honorific. This suffix is mainly used to express endearment towards girls, but can also be used when referring to little boys or even pets. Couples are also known to use the term amongst each other to convey a sense of cuteness and intimacy.

**Sempai** – This title is used towards one's senior or “superior” in a particular group or organization. “Sempai” is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to upperclassmen as “sempai,” though it is also commonly said by employees when addressing fellow employees who hold seniority in the workplace.

**Sensei** – Literally meaning “one who has come before,” this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

**Oniisan** – This title literally means “big brother.” First and foremost, it is used by younger siblings towards older male siblings. It can be used by itself or attached to a person’s name as a suffix (*niisan*). It is often used by a younger person toward an older person unrelated by blood, but as a sign of respect. Other forms include the informal “oniichan” and the more respectful “oniisama.”

**Oneesan** – This title is the opposite of “oniisan” and means “big sister.” Other forms include the informal “oneechan” and the more respectful “oneesama.”

# TRANSLATION NOTES

## 26.4

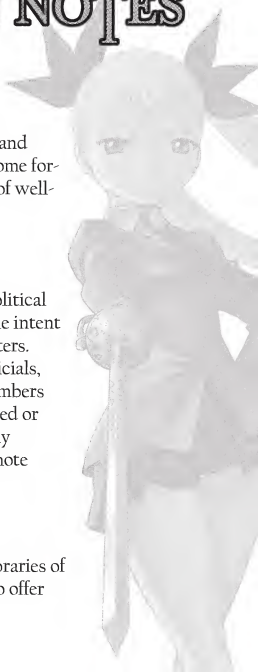
The suffix “-chama” is a combination of “-chan” and “-sama.” It indicates closeness while retaining some formality, and is generally used by young children of well-to-do families to refer to beloved older siblings.

## 66.1

“The Great Purge” (1936-1938) was a series of political purges in the USSR, organized by Stalin with the intent of cleansing the Communist Party of any dissenters. Hundreds of thousands of Communist Party officials, Red Army officials, peasants, minorities and members of the intelligentsia were convicted of exaggerated or entirely faked charges and were either summarily executed or shipped off to gulags, prisons in remote areas of the USSR.

## 87.1

Manga Kissa are coffee shops that keep small libraries of manga for patrons to read. Nowadays, many also offer internet access for a fee.





# Dance in the Vampire Bund

Volume 8

story & art by Nozomu Tamaki

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DANCE IN THE VAMPIRE BUND VOL. 8

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# THE END

## YOU'RE READING THE WRONG WAY

This is the last page of  
***Dance in the Vampire Bund***  
Volume 8



This book reads from right to left, Japanese style. To read from the beginning, flip the book over to the other side, start with the top right panel, and take it from there.

If this is your first time reading manga, just follow the diagram. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get used to it! Have fun!

